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JIM CORNETTE: "LET ME MANAGE YOU TO THE NWA TITLE!"

May 1987 04683

T.V.
SPORTS

PRO Wrestling

ILLUSTRATED

HULK vs. ANDRE?

THE WWF BRACES FOR ALL-OUT WAR!

TALE OF THE TAPE

HULK HOGAN		ANDRE THE GIANT
6'8"	Height	7'5"
302	Weight	497
90"	Reach	94"
60"	Chest	62"
	(normal)	
64½"	Chest	65"
	(expanded)	
41"	Waist	58"
22"	Neck	24"
24"	Biceps	20½"
19"	Forearm	16"
9"	Wrist	12"
31"	Thigh	32½"
14"	Ankle	17"



RINGSIDE

With Bill Apter

THERE'S GOOD NEWS to report about **Magnum T.A.** Doctors originally thought that the former U.S. heavyweight champion might be paralyzed for life after a serious automobile accident back in October, but now doctors say that he might be back on his feet by the end of January.

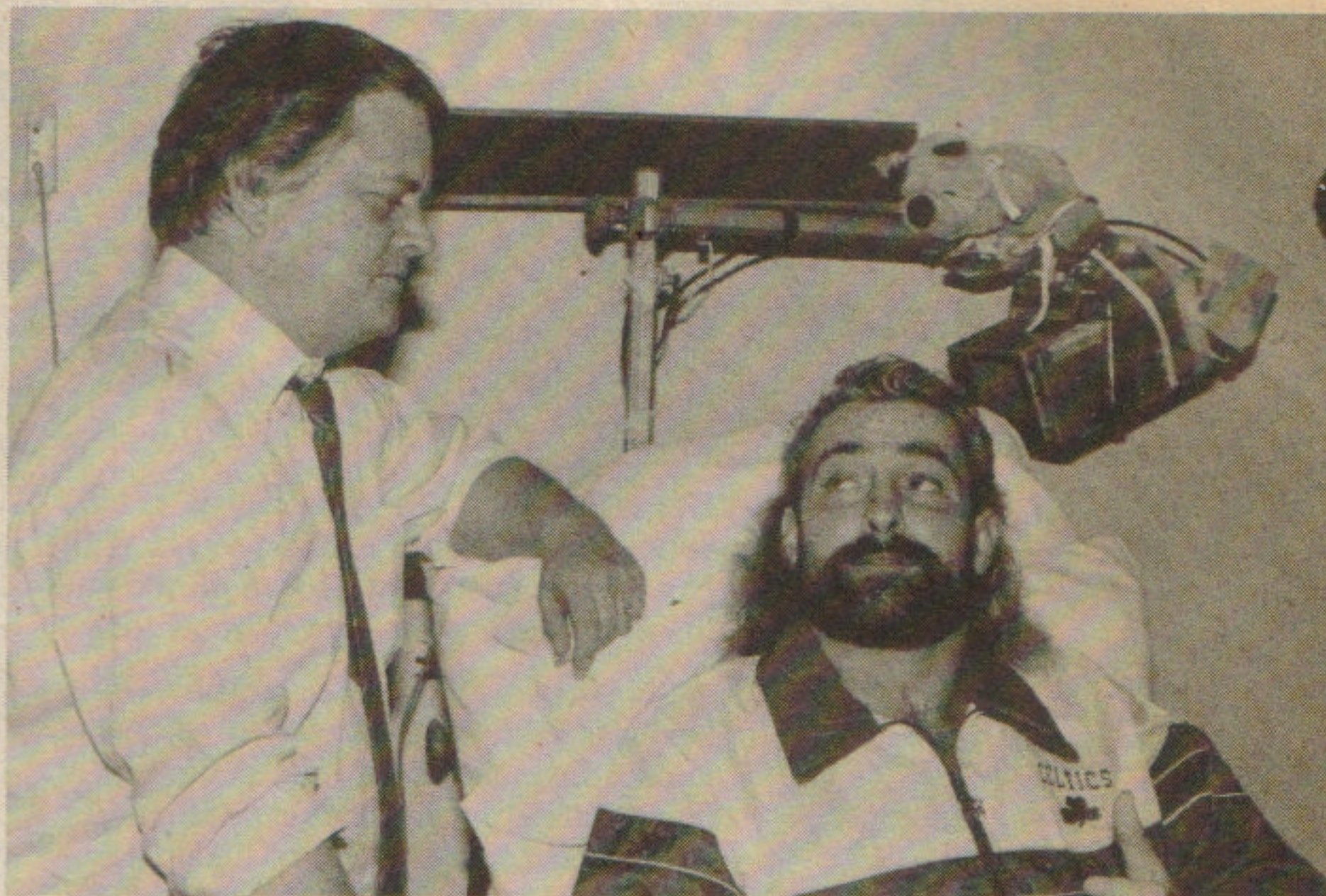
And, according to promoter **Jim Crockett**, T.A. is planning to return to the ring.

"He's sitting up by himself and his physical therapy is way ahead of schedule," reported Crockett, who has daily contact with T.A. "He's started to gain his weight back—he's eating like a horse—and his attitude is great. The doctors say that he's like a ringleader at the therapy groups, pushing everybody else."

Doctors hoped to release Magnum from the rehabilitation clinic by the end of January and said that he might be able to walk out with assistance. "He's moving both arms, although his left side is stronger, and he can feed himself," said Crockett. "He can't walk yet but he will. Remember, the doctors originally said that he'd never do anything, but now they don't know. They say that he definitely will walk."

Jimmy Snuka returned from his career-threatening injury and had already wrestled archrival **Col. DeBeers** twice as of press time. Snuka's career was also thought to be over after he was piledriven by DeBeers in November, but he has returned and appears to be better than ever. In fact, in both matches against Snuka, DeBeers fled the ring before five minutes had elapsed.

"Brother Apter, the man is a South African coward," Snuka told me by



As his remarkable recovery continues, Magnum T.A. is visited in the rehabilitation clinic by NWA promoter Jim Crockett. Initial fears indicated worse, but happily Magnum may be up and walking by the end of January.

phone. "DeBeers thought he got rid of me, but you can't get rid of 'The Superfly.' He's gonna live to regret what he did to me and all the things he's said about other people. I'm not one to forget easily."

Bruno Sammartino has wrestled Intercontinental champion **Randy Savage** twice, once in Baltimore and once in Boston. Sammartino won by countout in Baltimore after he beat "The Macho Man" back into the ring, but in Boston the opposite happened. However, when Sammartino got in he locked Savage in a bearhug and refused to let go. Finally, most of the wrestlers on the card ran into the ring and broke it up.

Sam Houston was badly beaten by **Bill Dundee** and lost the Central States title. Houston then announced his plans to move on to the UWF... **The M.O.D. Squad** defeated **Todd Champion** and **David Peterson** for the Central States title, but where is manager **J.D. Costello**, who failed to

show for the match? ... **Ted DiBiase** defeated UWF heavyweight champion **One Man Gang** in a non-title match.

Mid-Southern champion **Jerry Lawler** recently defeated **Tommy Rich** to earn a shot at AWA World champion **Nick Bockwinkel** in Memphis. But before Lawler's big opportunity, **Austin Idol** entered the ring and told Lawler, his good friend, that he wanted the title shot. Lawler told Idol that he was being ridiculous, and Idol started to leave the ring. But as Lawler gave his crown to the ring-side attendant, Idol sneak-attacked Jerry, cutting him above the eye, before running out.

Lawler was extremely bloody, but that didn't stop him from taking on Bockwinkel and battling him to a one-hour draw. After his incredibly brave performance, Lawler proudly soaked in the cheers of the crowd. "I'd like another shot at Bockwinkel, but this

(Continued on page 54)

KING'S COURT

By Peter King

AS THE ULTIMATE in one-on-one competition, wrestling is a sport in which an athlete can go from ecstatic highs to depressing lows. Unlike team sports, where an athlete can have a good year while his team has a bad one, a wrestler is player, team, owner, and franchise all in one brawny package. And while losing teams can say "Wait until next year," sometimes a losing wrestler has no next year. The Pittsburgh Pirates can lose 100 games one season,

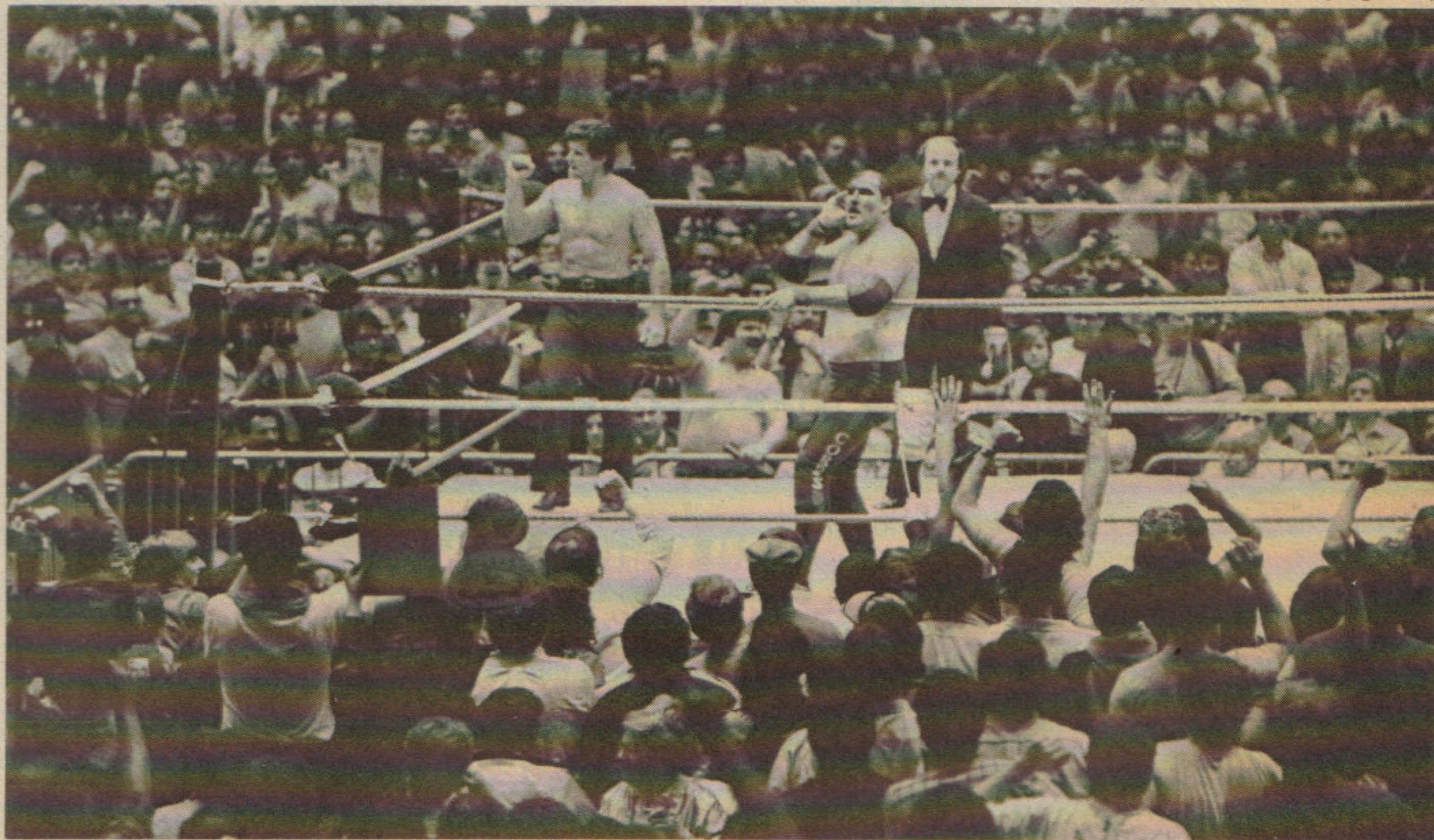
but at the start of the next season they are still in the National League. A wrestler who has an off-year very often finds himself out of the major leagues entirely.

With that in mind, let's take a look at three wrestlers who were hot once but aren't now.

Sgt. Slaughter: The classic case of a the wrestler who went from a ball of fire to a cold snowball, almost overnight. Just a couple of years ago, The

Sarge was the WWF's hottest ticket, even hotter than WWF champion Hulk Hogan. Slaughter's feud with Iron Sheik burned out of wrestling and into the mainstream media. More than any other single wrestler, Slaughter made people realize the excitement of professional wrestling. But then came a dispute with WWF head Vince McMahon over some merchandising money, and Slaughter pulled out of the WWF. A short tour for Pro Wrestling U.S.A., a great idea that couldn't last, kept Slaughter hot for a while. But then a disastrous stay in the AWA cooled Slaughter off like an ice-water bath. Currently, The Sarge is working for a small East Coast promotion, and is followed closer by children who watch the *G.I. Joe* cartoon series than wrestling fans. Rumors have it he wants back in the WWF. If he can return to McMahonland, it is possible the Sarge will heat up once again.

Tommy Rich: They called him Wildfire, and he was hot as one. In 1981, Tommy Rich streaked to fame and the NWA title while in his early
(Continued on page 51)

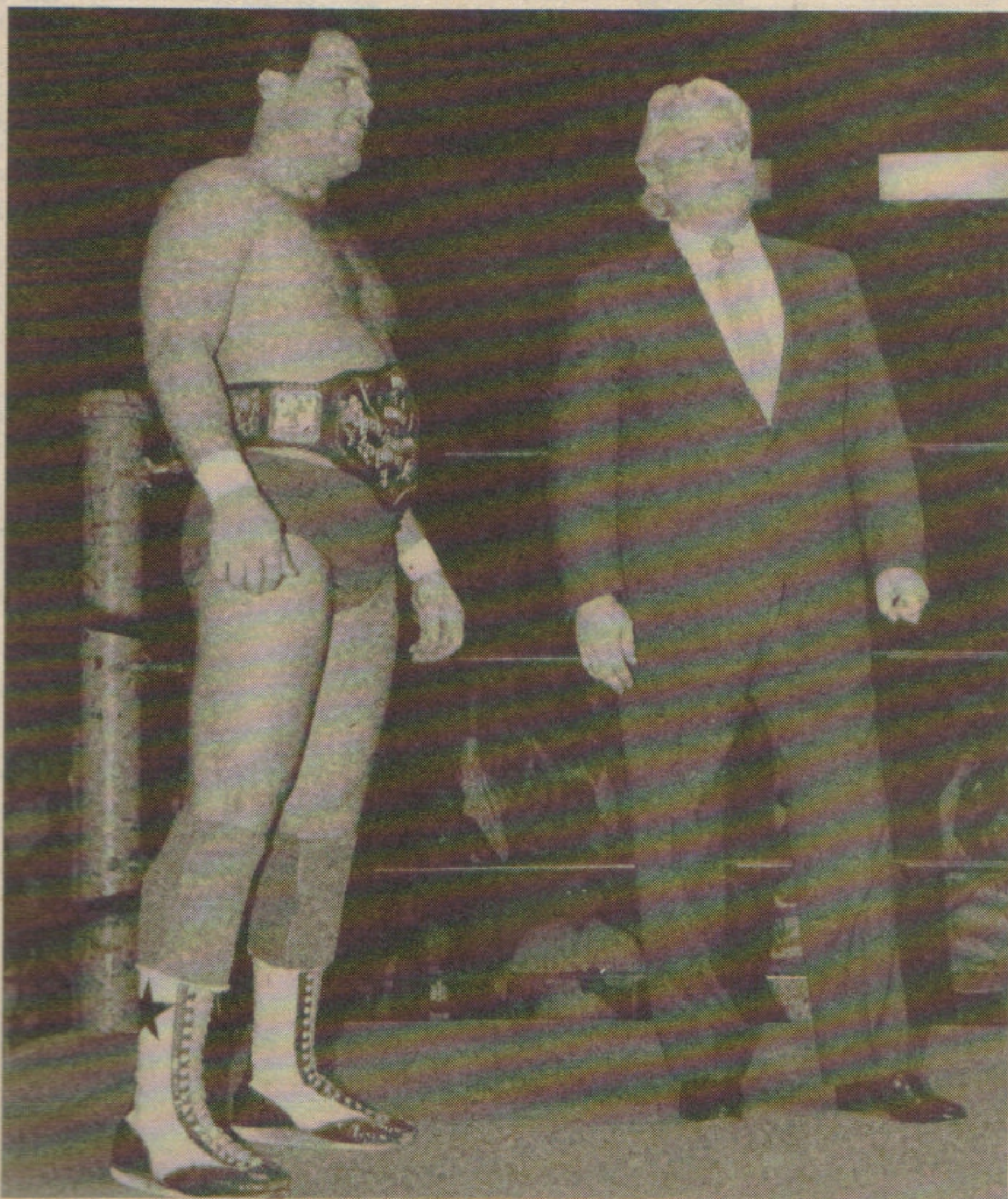


It wasn't too long ago that Sgt. Slaughter had the ability to excite a crowd. But since he left the WWF, the Sarge's popularity has gone down.

DRESSING CONFIDENTIAL ROOM

By Stu Saks

MEMO TO JIM Crockett using television interviews to promote an NWA TV title match between Tully Blanchard and Dusty Rhodes at The Omni. TV titles have to be defended on TV or there is no justification for their



Tully Blanchard has been defending his NWA television title *on television*, something that Dusty Rhodes rarely did. Managing Editor Stu Saks felt that the title was being misused when it was defended in arena bouts.

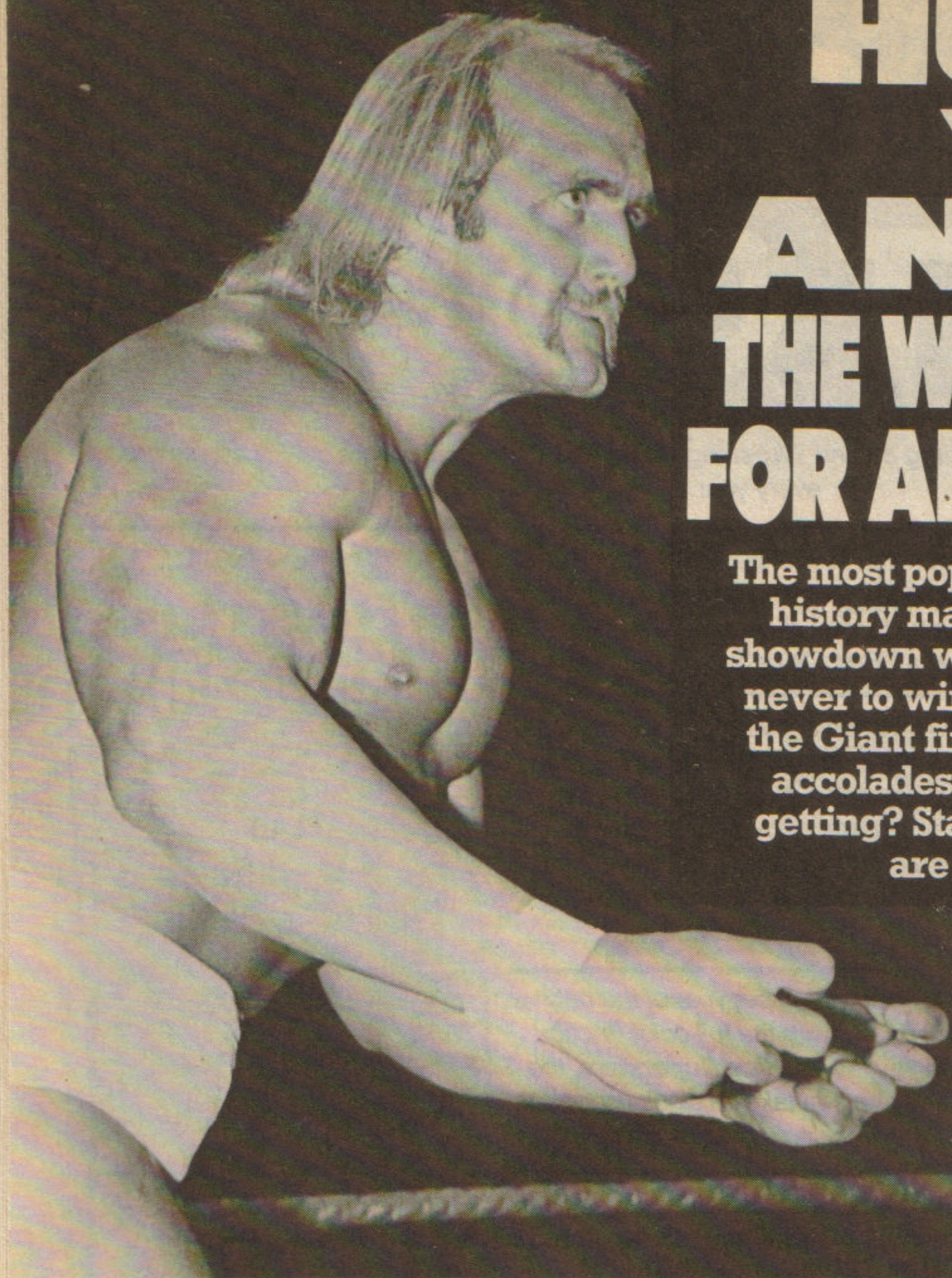
existence.

I used to despise the concept of TV titles. I thought that there were too many titles in existence already and TV titles were poor excuses to add even more. I fought long and hard to keep the recognition of these titles out of our magazine—and eventually lost. Actually, I'm glad I did. As TV titles became the focal point of many major feuds, it would have been remiss on our part to ignore these feuds just because a few editors were protesting against the proliferation of titles in the sport.

Eventually, I even realized there was a legitimate reason for the existence of such titles. TV title matches spice up what would ordinarily be dull TV cards. Every wrestling fan knows that the purpose of television wrestling is to promote upcoming arena cards. Promoters (intelligent promoters, at least) do not want to give away on TV the quality matches that they sell in the arenas, thus televised matches usually pit an arena-type winner against a TV-type loser. Aside from the interviews and the ever-present threat of an impromptu brawl among rivals who can't wait to get at each other in the arena, TV wrestling cards can be a dreadful bore.

A TV title match per card gives the fans something to look for-

(Continued on page 56)



HULK VS. ANDRE? THE WWF BRACES FOR ALL-OUT WAR!

The most popular champion in WWF history may be headed toward a showdown with the greatest wrestler never to win a world title. Is Andre the Giant finally fed up with all the accolades Hulk Hogan has been getting? Stay tuned; the fireworks are just beginning!

Six-and-a-half years may be an eternity, but it is not long enough to erase the memory of that day from the minds of Andre the Giant and Hulk Hogan. And in spite of the apparent friendship that the two men formed when Hogan returned to the WWF late in 1983, the scars left by the hatred they held for each other in 1980 will forever be in place.

Hogan and Andre have in recent years given the appearance of being close friends. They have spoken highly of one another and teamed up from time to time. Most important for Hogan, he has never had to worry about a challenge from Andre, who was the first man to congratulate him when he won the title. For his part, Andre has valued his popularity and would never think of trading it in for a title shot with Hogan.

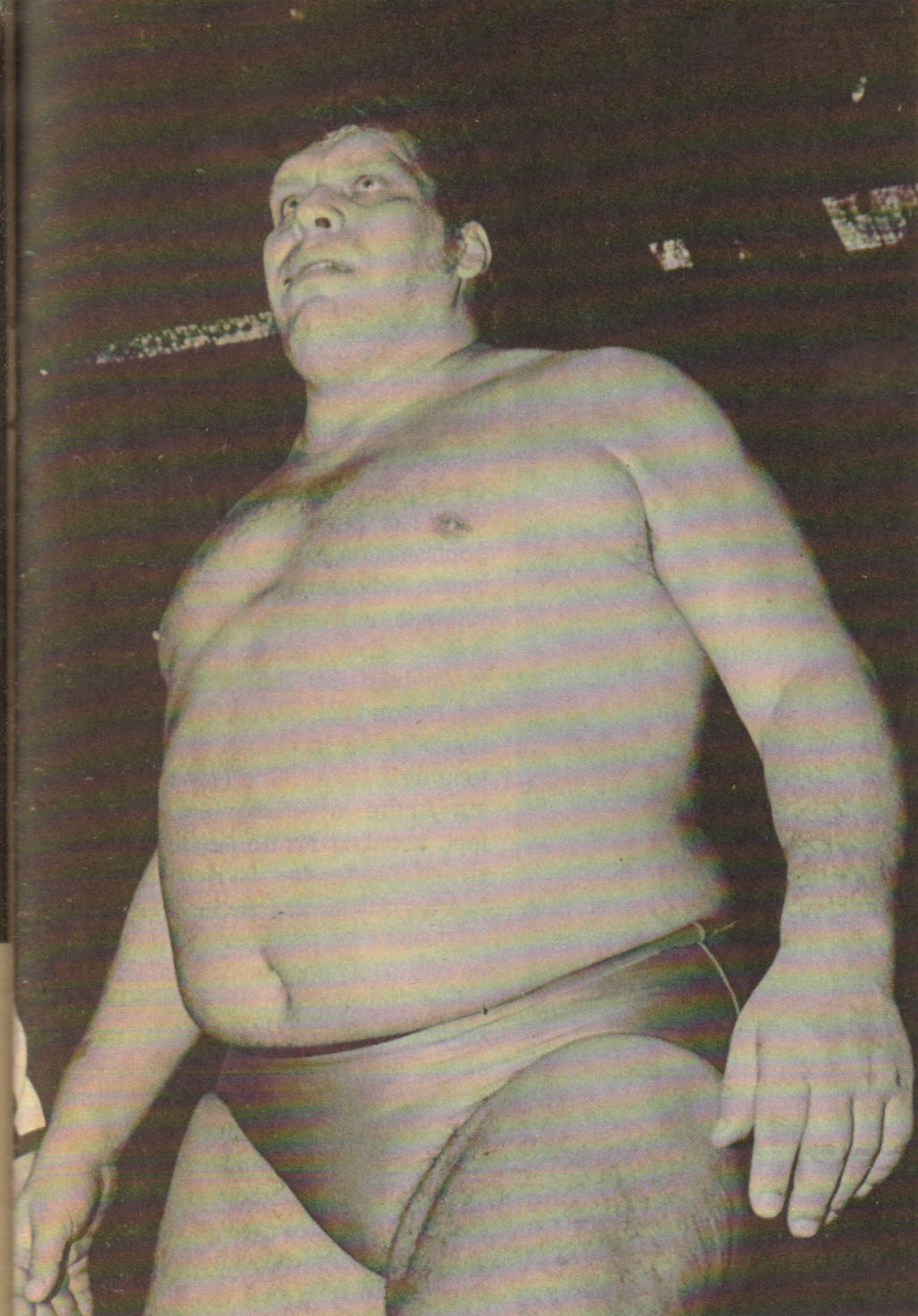
Recent events, however, indicate that we may not be able to classify Andre as a fan favorite in the future. At this stage in his ca-

THE DATE WAS August 9, 1980. The place was New York's Shea Stadium. The main event was the unforgettable cage match showdown between Larry Zbyszko and Bruno Sammartino, but the match many of the then-record crowd of 40,995 had come to see pitted the two largest men in the WWF: Hulk Hogan vs. Andre the Giant.

Six-and-a-half years is an eternity in professional sports. At the time, Shea Stadium was drawing about 10,000 fans a game to watch the last-place Mets and Hulk Hogan was the most hated man in the

WWF.

Andre had the complete support of the fans as he battled the brash, young Hogan, and with the presence of Hogan's cane-wielding manager Fred Blassie at ringside, he welcomed all the help he could get. After a wild struggle Andre pinned Hogan and, despite Blassie's vehement protest that Hogan had kicked out before the three-count, the referee's decision stood. Seeking justice in the only way they understood, Blassie slipped his wrestler a foreign object, and Hogan proceeded to thrash Andre into helplessness.



undefeated in his entire 15-year career, that he is not worthy of a title match. And it also must be difficult to tell Andre that WWF policy does not allow matches between two fan favorites or two rulebreakers. In the past that may have been the case, but recently such matches as The Rougeaus vs. The Islanders and Jake Roberts vs. Randy Savage (for the Intercontinental title) have entertained WWF fans. "That's the frustrating thing for Andre," says his anonymous friend. "He's always asking the championship committee why they don't give him the same consideration they give guys like Savage and Roberts. Maybe it's because he's too popular."

The Andre of old would accept the situation, but the older Andre may be a wiser Andre. It is rumored that Andre's failure to show up for his tag team match against King Kong Bundy and John Studd last year was his protest against the WWF's failure to give him a title match. Rather than accept the WWF's punishment, he donned a mask and came back as Giant Machine. At the hearing for his reinstatement, Andre received the

Hulk Hogan bearhugs Andre the Giant in a 1980 match (below). For most of his reign as WWF World champion, Hogan did not have to worry about a match against his friend Andre, but that appears to be changing. From all accounts, Andre is pressing for a title shot.

reer, Andre might prefer to reach for personal glory rather than cater to the wishes of his supporters. "Andre feels he's at a point in his life where he wants to do things for himself," said a longtime friend who requested anonymity. "He's not exactly a young guy anymore, you know. He's running out of time to accomplish the things he wants to. Andre had hoped to get a title match with Hogan without having to make too much noise and embarrassing anyone, but it just hasn't happened, and the big guy is getting frustrated."

It is difficult to tell Andre, who is



support of (of all people) Bobby Heenan, a man who is known for talking fan favorites into becoming rulebreakers.

Veteran observers of the WWF believe that nothing less than a ti-

tle shot against Hulk Hogan at WrestleMania 3 would be enough incentive for Andre to work with Heenan. But even if Andre does take on Heenan as a manager, there is no guarantee that he will

get that prestigious main event. Remember, the man who earned the shot last year, Randy Savage, was passed over in favor of King Kong Bundy.

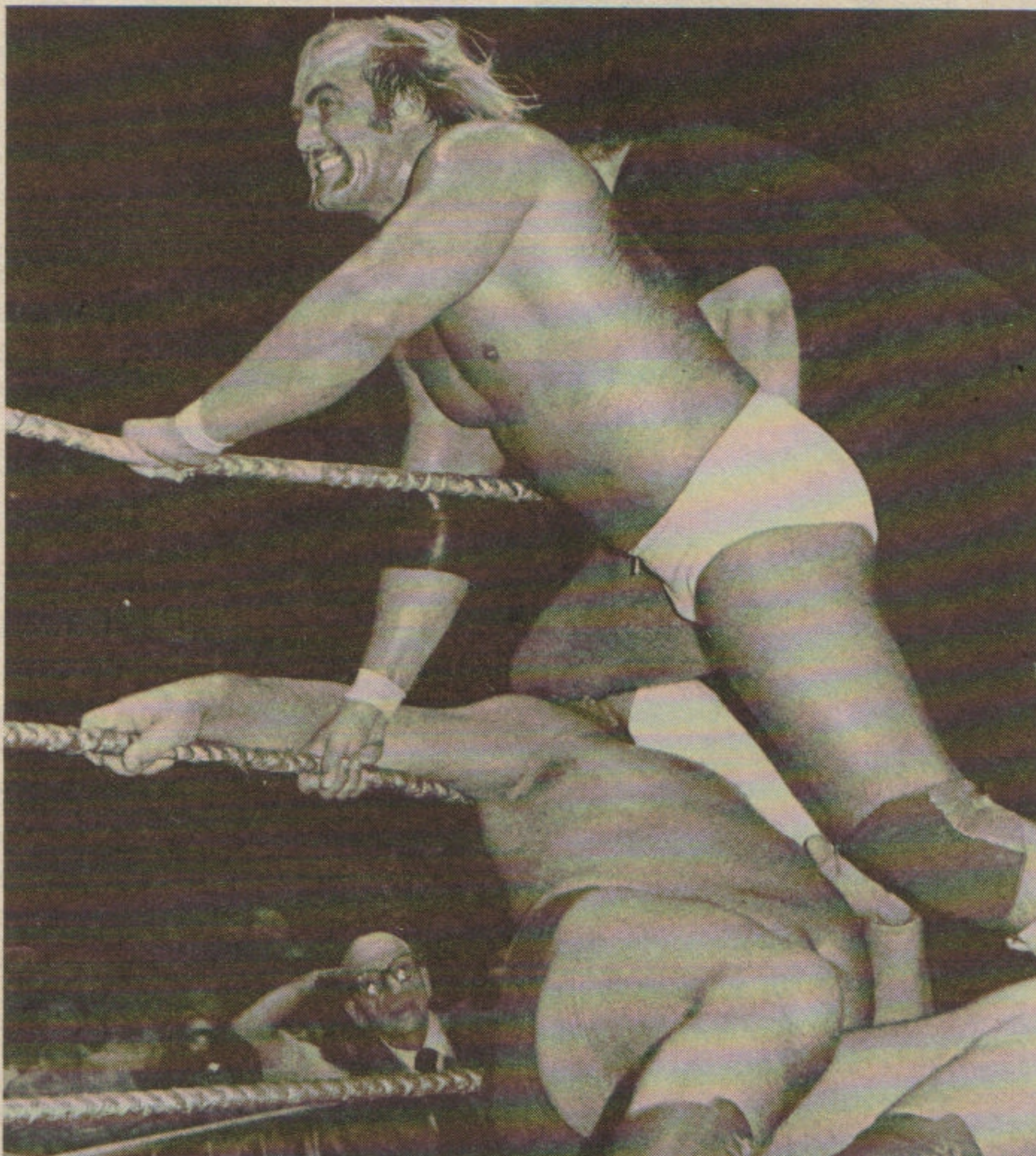
Hogan defeated Bundy with relative ease in that match and has gone on to defeat other super-heavyweights such as John Studd, Hercules Hernandez, and Kamala. Andre, however, cannot be classified as a superheavyweight; he's in a class all his own (see *Tale of the Tape* on cover). Too much time has passed since their last confrontation to use that as an accurate indicator as to how a match today would transpire.

Since both men lack stamina, it is doubtful that the match would go beyond 30 minutes. It would, however, be an epic contest for as long as it lasted. The key to beating Andre is getting him off his feet, negating his tremendous size advantage. To do this, Hogan must use his quickness, catching Andre off-guard with well-placed punches and a clothesline or two.

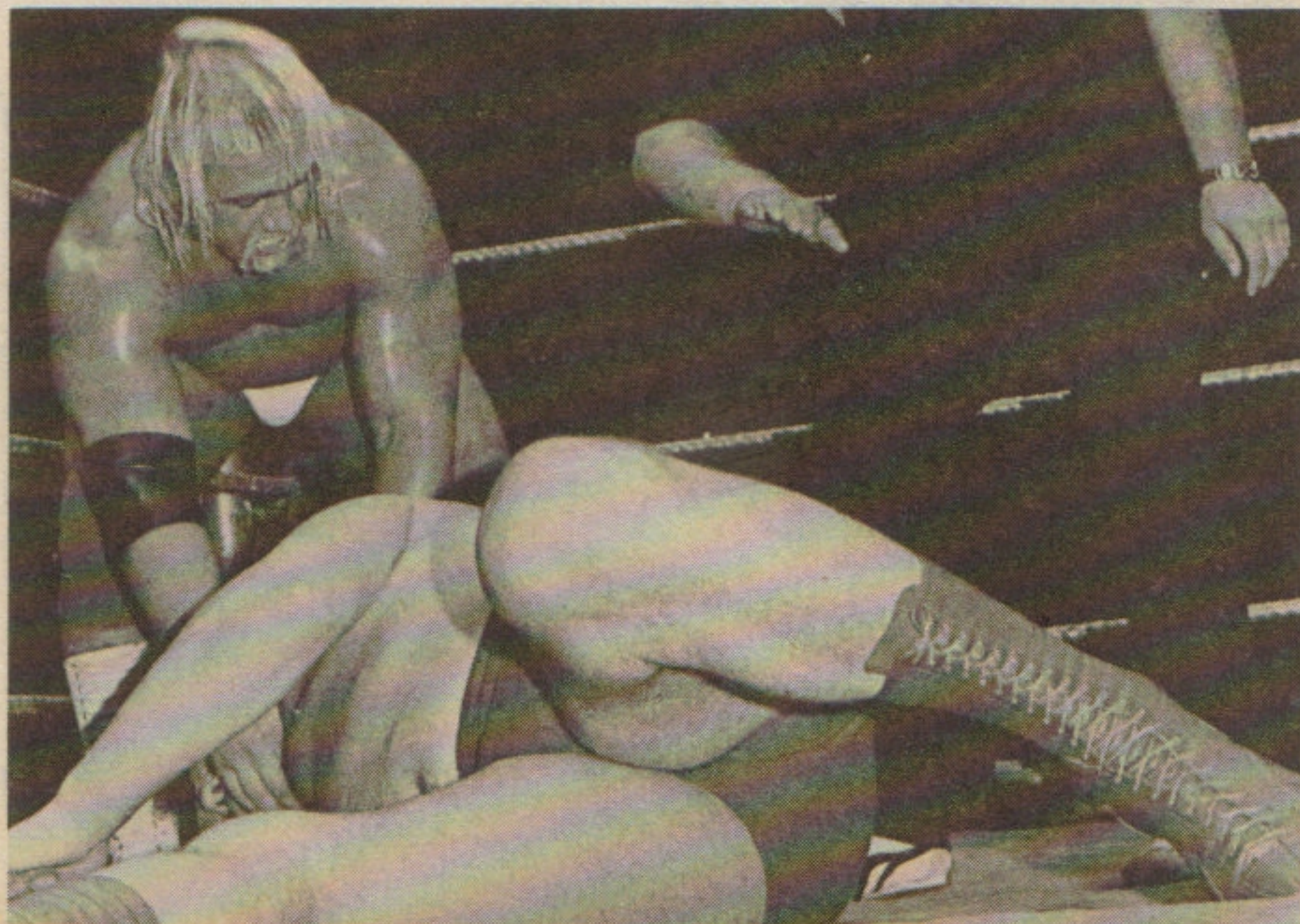
For Andre to win, he must back Hogan into the corner. If the champion is unable to move around, Andre will pummel him. Any attempt Hogan makes at retaliating will be ineffective because Andre's immense body can absorb incredible punishment. As the maxim goes, he can take three punches to give one.

Of course, either wrestler's game plan will be thrown right out if the combatants throw the rules out. And that, unfortunately, is what most people would expect.

Andre is proud of being undefeated in his professional career. Some consider that record a lot more impressive than winning a world title. He is proud, but not necessarily happy. "More than anything else, Andre wants to be champion of the world," said his friend. "The streak doesn't mean as much as it once did. Let's face it. Over the past 10 years, he's been the most dominant wrestler. I think the fans recognize that." □



In this match, Hogan has the upper hand as he pushes his knee against Andre's throat (above). Not content with the damage he's done, Hogan wants to get Andre off the mat (below). Since Hogan reentered the WWF in 1983, he and Andre have been close friends. If they wrestle again, however, that won't matter.





"The Captain has decided that his expertise, his knowledge, his cunning, his leadership cannot get any better than it is. So, I have decided to let others take my place."

LOU ALBANO: Willie, as always, I am honored to speak with you. It is my pleasure to be here with your distinguished editors. You were always fair with The Captain and I appreciate that.

BILL APTER: Thank you, Captain. Everybody wants to know, why did you retire?

ALBANO: The Captain has decided that his expertise, his knowledge, his cunning, his leadership cannot get any better than it is. So, I have decided to let others take my place.

ANDY RODRIGUEZ: But you were the only manager in the WWF fighting for good in wrestling. Are you really ready to leave the future in the hands of men like Bobby Heenan and Slick?

ALBANO: No, Andy, that's not what I said. I mean other wrestlers like Hulk Hogan and The British Bulldogs. They're the ones who will make sure that Heenan and his friends don't run amok.

CRAIG PETERS: Speaking of the Bulldogs, do you have any inside infor-

mation on Dynamite Kid's back injury?

ALBANO: I'm afraid the Captain can't divulge any information he may have. In fact, I don't have a whole lot of information anyway.

PETERS: You wouldn't hold anything back on us, would you?

ALBANO: Craig, how many times have you interviewed the Captain? I have always spoken the truth.

RODRIGUEZ: I'm not so sure about that. It's only in the past two years that you've done anything to win the favor of the fans.

ALBANO: Mistakes have been made, I'll admit that, but I really have changed. I resolved my differences with Cyndi Lauper. I stopped managing Greg Valentine because I could not guide the career of a man who regularly lied and cheated.

PETERS: As I recall, you instructed Valentine to injure Tito Santana's leg before their TV match for the Intercontinental title in 1984.

ALBANO: May the good Lord forgive for all the bad things I've done over

the years. But that does not distract from the fact that I have managed some 13 teams to 16 world championships. Nobody else in the entire wrestling world can match that record, you understand.

APTER: Dave, don't you have any questions for the Captain?

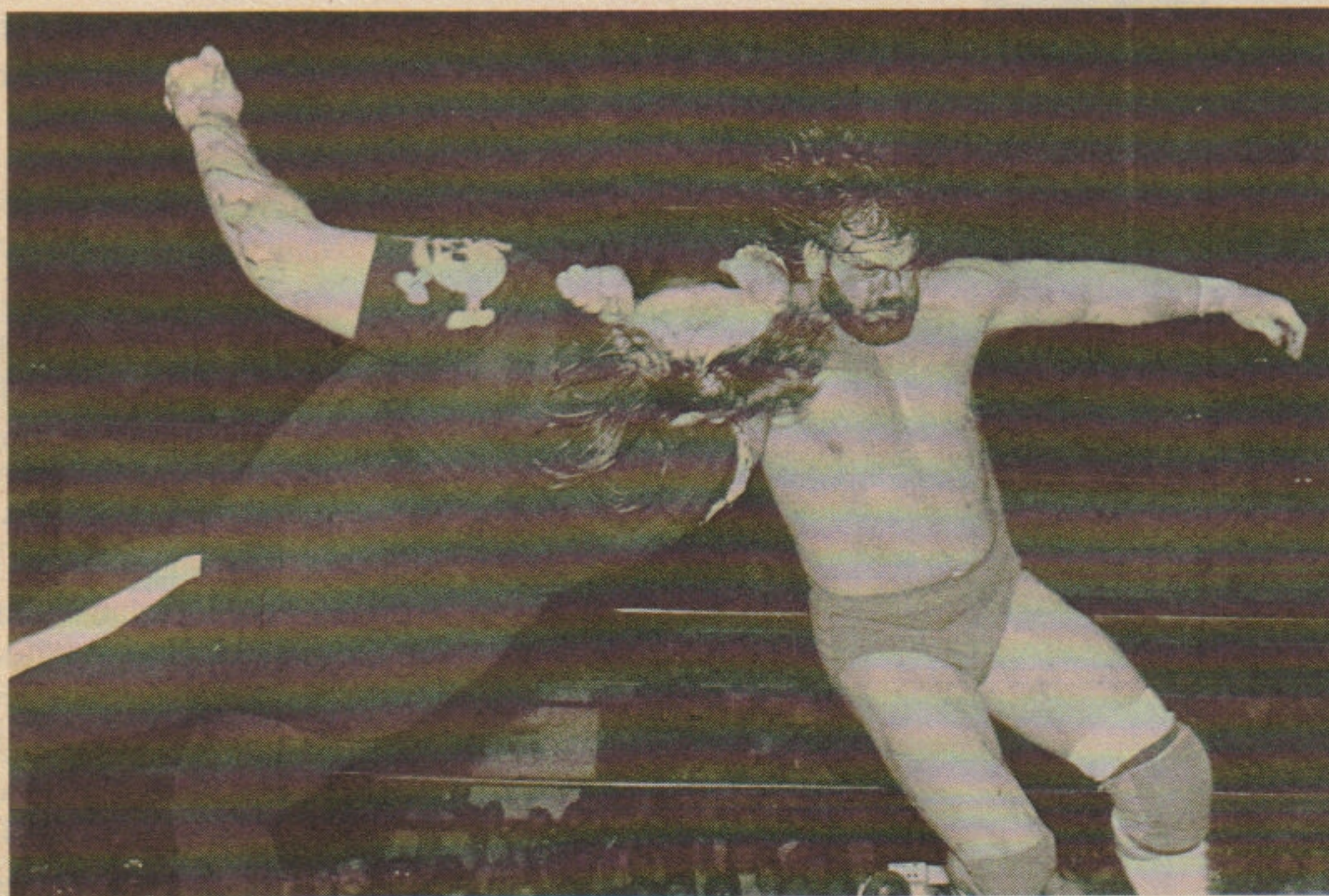
DAVE ROSENBAUM: Okay, I guess I've waited long enough, although I don't like to be pushed, Bill. There are reports that Andre the Giant, who you once managed, will finally be given what he has always wanted: a shot at Hulk Hogan's title. Should Andre wrestle for the title?

ALBANO: Far be it from me to say what Andre should or should not do. Just because I used to manage him doesn't mean I can advise him. The man deserves everything that's coming to him. If the great Andre the Giant wants a title match, that's okay by me.

APTER: Captain, tell us about some of your work with the Multiple Sclerosis Foundation.

ALBANO: As you know, Willie, Cyndi
(Continued on page 60)

STEVE WILLIAMS WINS THE \$50,000 PWI/UWF TOURNAMENT!



Steve "Dr. Death" Williams is bloody but happy after winning the *PWI/UWF* Challenge Tournament. He holds the prizes: a \$50,000 check and a replica of the cup that was in New York for engraving (opposite page). In the final, Williams clotheslines UWF champion One Man Gang (above).

NOW THAT THE *Pro Wrestling Illustrated*-Universal Wrestling Federation co-sponsored \$50,000 Challenge Tournament is history, we can admit that once the tournament had already begun and it was too late to turn back, we had second thoughts about our involvement.

Our doubts began with a comment from Assistant Editor Eddie Ellner in November after we

learned of the Terry Taylor's Halloween victory over Buddy Landell in the tournament's first match in Houston. "Hey," Ellner said to Editor-in-Chief Peter King, "wouldn't it be something if a guy like Michael Hayes or One Man Gang won the tournament? Wouldn't it make you proud to have One Man Gang along with Skandor Akbar and the *PWI* Cup in the centerfold?"

Ellner, who most frequently sup-

ports the rulebreaking faction of the sport, made sure that he didn't bring up this point while the tournament was in its planning stages. Nothing would have made him happier than to see the expression on the faces of his fellow editors if what he suggested came to pass. The overall editorial stance of *PWI* favors wrestlers who adhere to the rulebook. They don't necessarily have to be brilliant scientific wres-

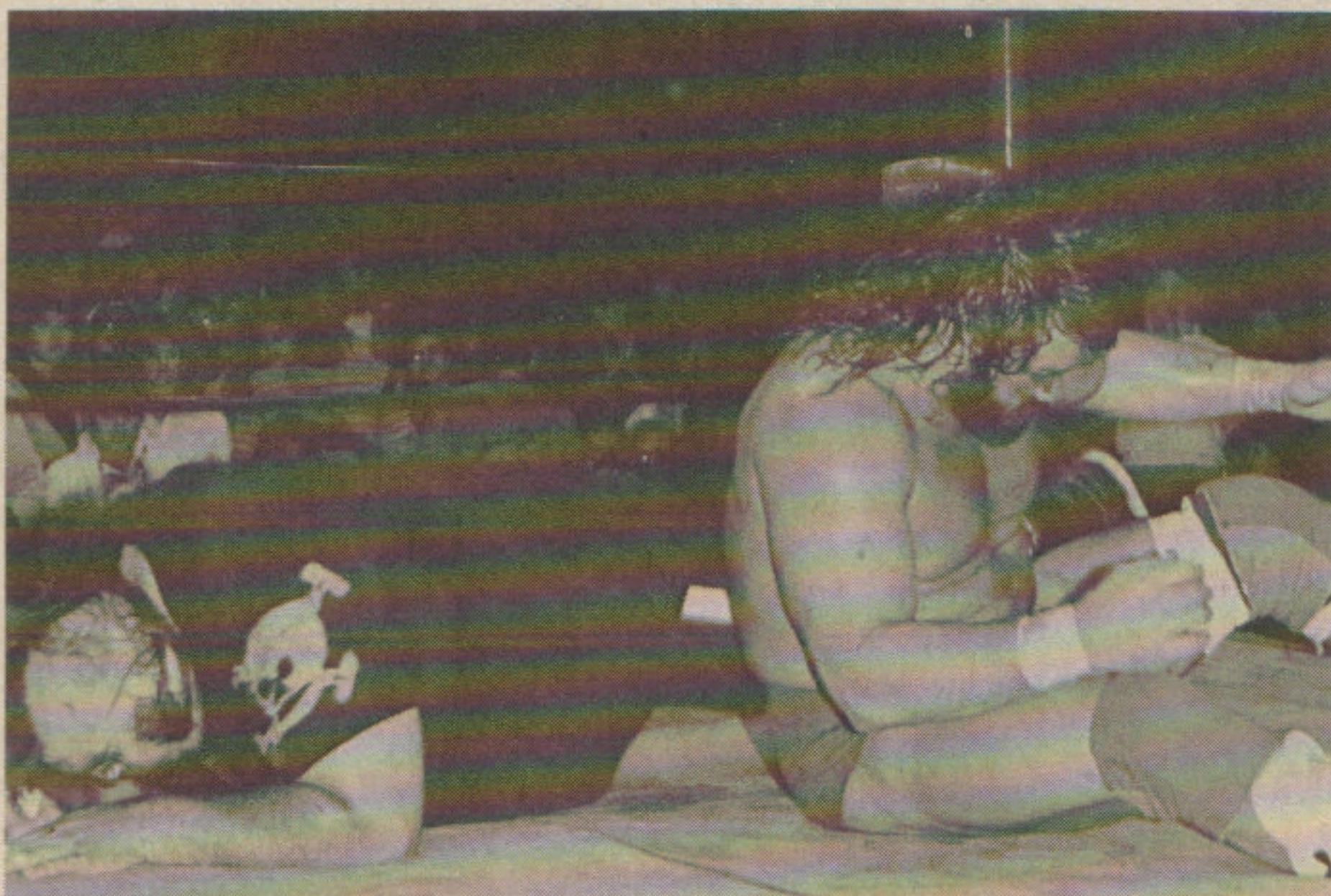
After seven weeks of competition, it could be said that the first-ever tournament co-sponsored by a national wrestling publication was an incredible success. For a while, though, the editors of *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* were very worried!



tlers, but they shouldn't rely on foreign objects or managerial interference for their success either. It would be an embarrassment to the magazine if the first time it co-sponsored a wrestling tournament it had to present its Cup and \$50,000 check to a wrestler who cheated his way to victory.

Luckily, that did not happen. Steve "Dr. Death" Williams is the winner of the \$50,000 *PWI/UWF* Challenge Tournament.

Gang mounts the top rope in an attempt to smash Williams with his 460-pound body (left). The big man was following the instructions of his manager, Skandor Akbar, who had run into the ring.



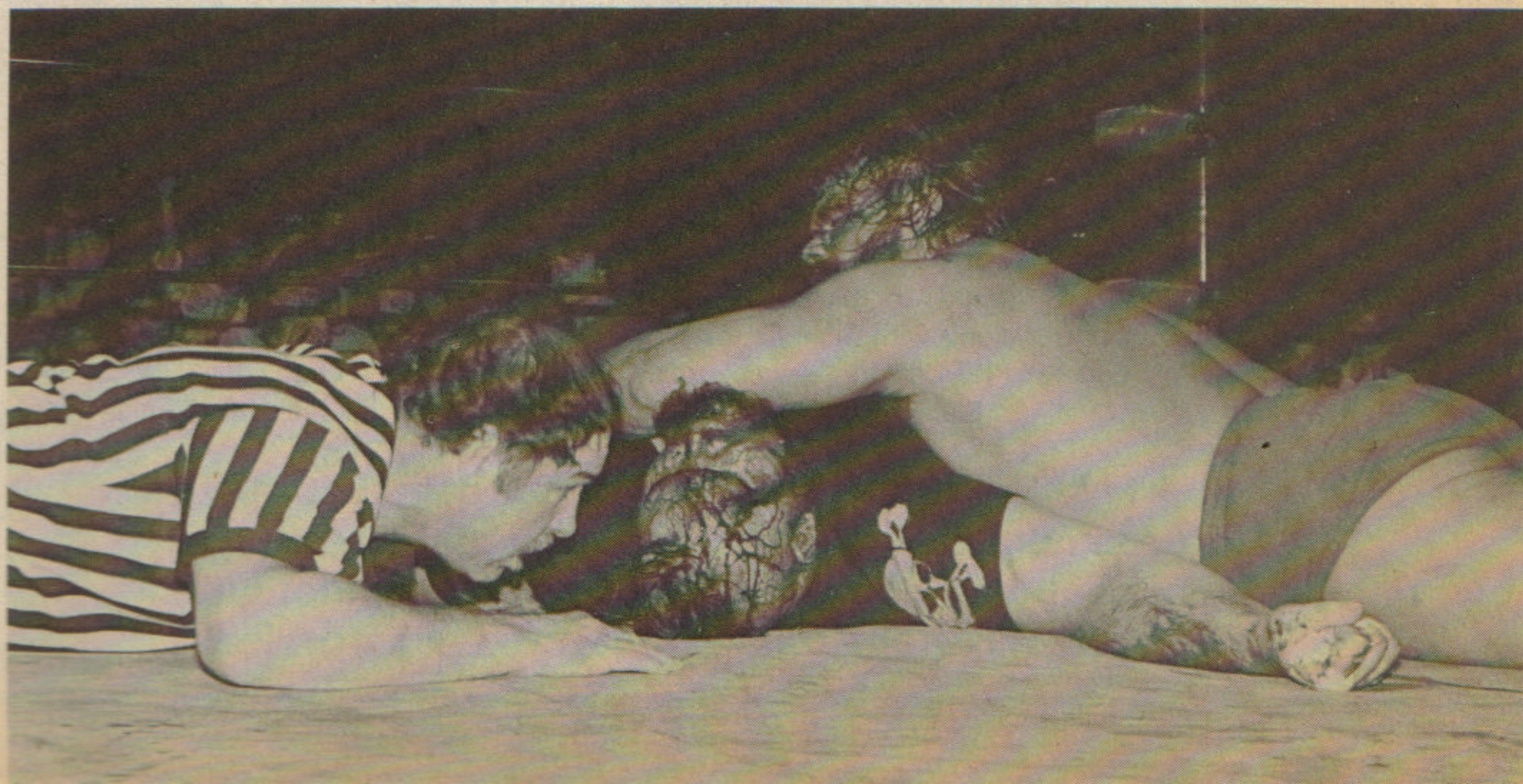
Williams rolls out of the way of Gang's leap (above), then slowly crawls over and pins him (below). Referee Tommy Gilbert had come back into the ring after being knocked out by both competitors. With the victory, Williams solidified his reputation as one of the toughest men in wrestling.

"I'd just like to congratulate you on your great victory," said Peter King in a Reaganesque phone call to Williams in the winner's dressing room at the Sam Houston Coliseum on December 12 after his final-round victory over One Man Gang. "It gives me great pride to say that the winner of our first tournament is a man who represents all the finer aspects of wrestling as a whole and the UWF in general."

King's enthusiasm was shared by Senior Editor Bill Apter, who was in Houston to photograph the final and present the winner-take-all \$50,000 check. Like the rest of the tournament, the final was a thriller. One Man Gang's UWF title was not on the line, but one wouldn't have known it by watching the match. It appeared as if something just as important was at stake. Maybe it was the trophy. Maybe it was the money. Most probably, it was the pride of two outstanding competitors.

For 21 minutes and 43 seconds, these two ring monsters engaged in an incredible display of strength and power. Late in the match, Williams lifted the 460-pound Gang over his head. The weight of Gang pulled Williams toward one side of the ring, and the champion grabbed the ropes and used the leverage to push backward. Williams fell over

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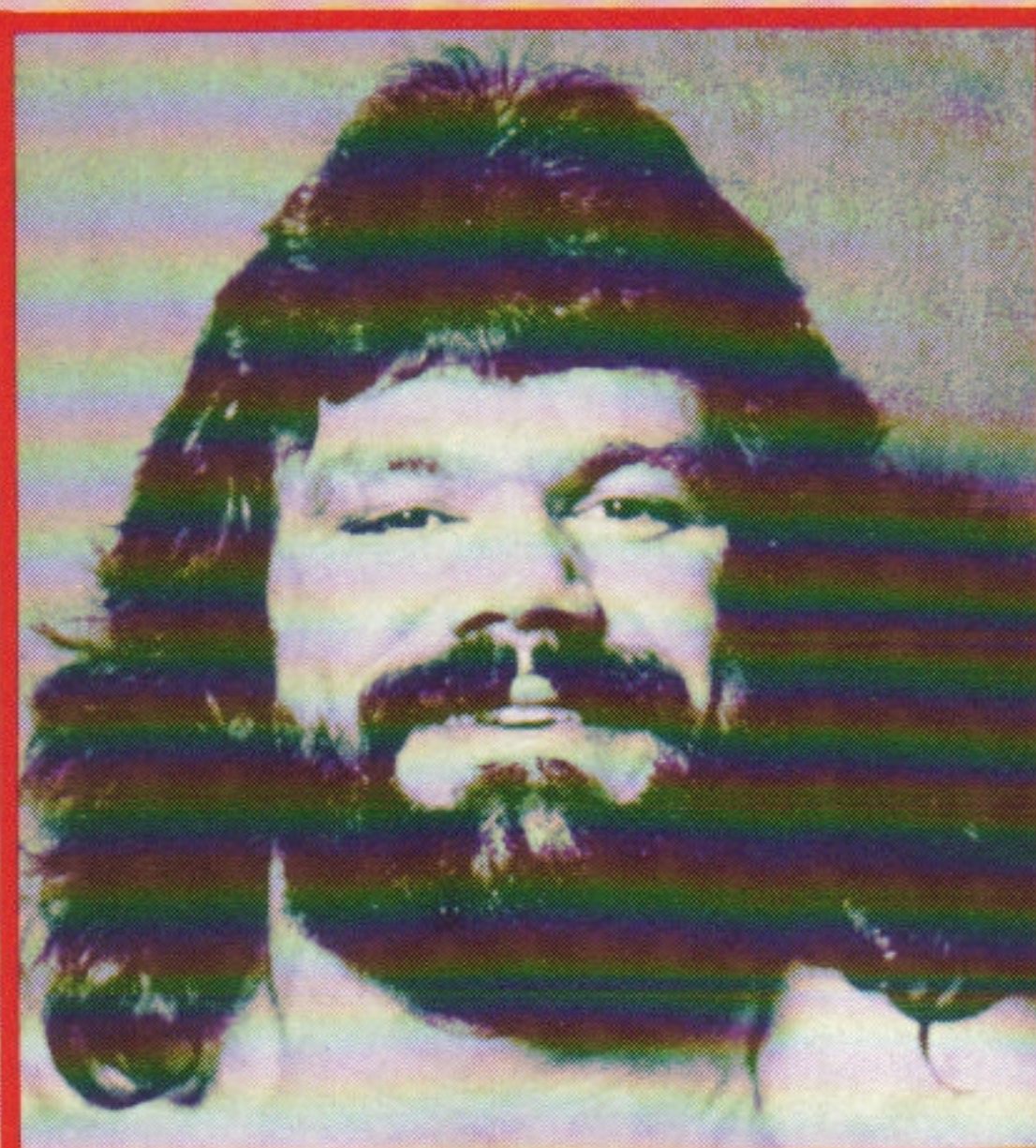


CLOSE-UP

STEVE WILLIAMS

STEVE "DR. DEATH" Williams is widely considered to be one of the most promising young stars in the sport . . . At 6'1" and 295 pounds he is one of the toughest and most physically imposing men in the sport . . . Born in Lakewood, Colorado, but now lives in Norman, Oklahoma, where he attended the University of Oklahoma . . . Comes from a sports-oriented family . . . Father Jerry Sr. was an avid sportsman . . . Steve and his two brothers, Jerry Jr. and Jeffrey, each weighed 200 pounds by the time they were 14 . . . Played football and wrestled throughout junior and senior high school . . . Was undefeated in four years on the Lakewood High School wrestling team . . . Earned "Dr. Death" nickname after breaking his nose and coming to a wrestling meet wearing a hockey goalie's mask for protection . . . When he came out

to wrestle, one of the assistant coaches on the opposing team yelled, "Whoa, here comes Dr. Death!" . . . Nickname immediately stuck . . . Played four years of football at Oklahoma University and was named to the All-Big Eight team twice . . . Played right guard and started every game for three years . . . Oklahoma teams he played on went to the 1981 Orange Bowl and the 1983 Fiesta Bowl . . . Was honorable mention all-America in his junior year . . . Was a three-time all-America on the Oklahoma University wrestling team . . . Passed up his senior year of college to sign a pro football contract with the New Jersey Generals of the USFL in 1982 . . . Signed as an offensive tackle but aggravated an old knee injury in training camp and spent the entire season on the injured reserve list . . . The following season, the Generals switched Williams to defensive nose tackle . . . But Williams couldn't make the switch from offense to defense and was cut two weeks before the season began . . . Returned to Oklahoma to complete his degree in physical education . . . While in the weight room on campus one day, Williams met one of his childhood idols, Bill Watts . . . Watts convinced Williams to pursue a career in professional wrestling . . . Dr. Death's first pro match was against The Turk in Shreveport, Louisiana . . . "I won," recalls Williams. "It was the most unbelievable night of my life." . . . Befriended Terry Taylor and formed a successful tag team . . . But this friendship soon broke up in a most peculiar way . . . Taylor was scheduled to wrestle Mid-South TV champ Krusher Khrushchev . . . Williams held on to the championship medallion and said that he would present it to the winner . . . Taylor won but Williams

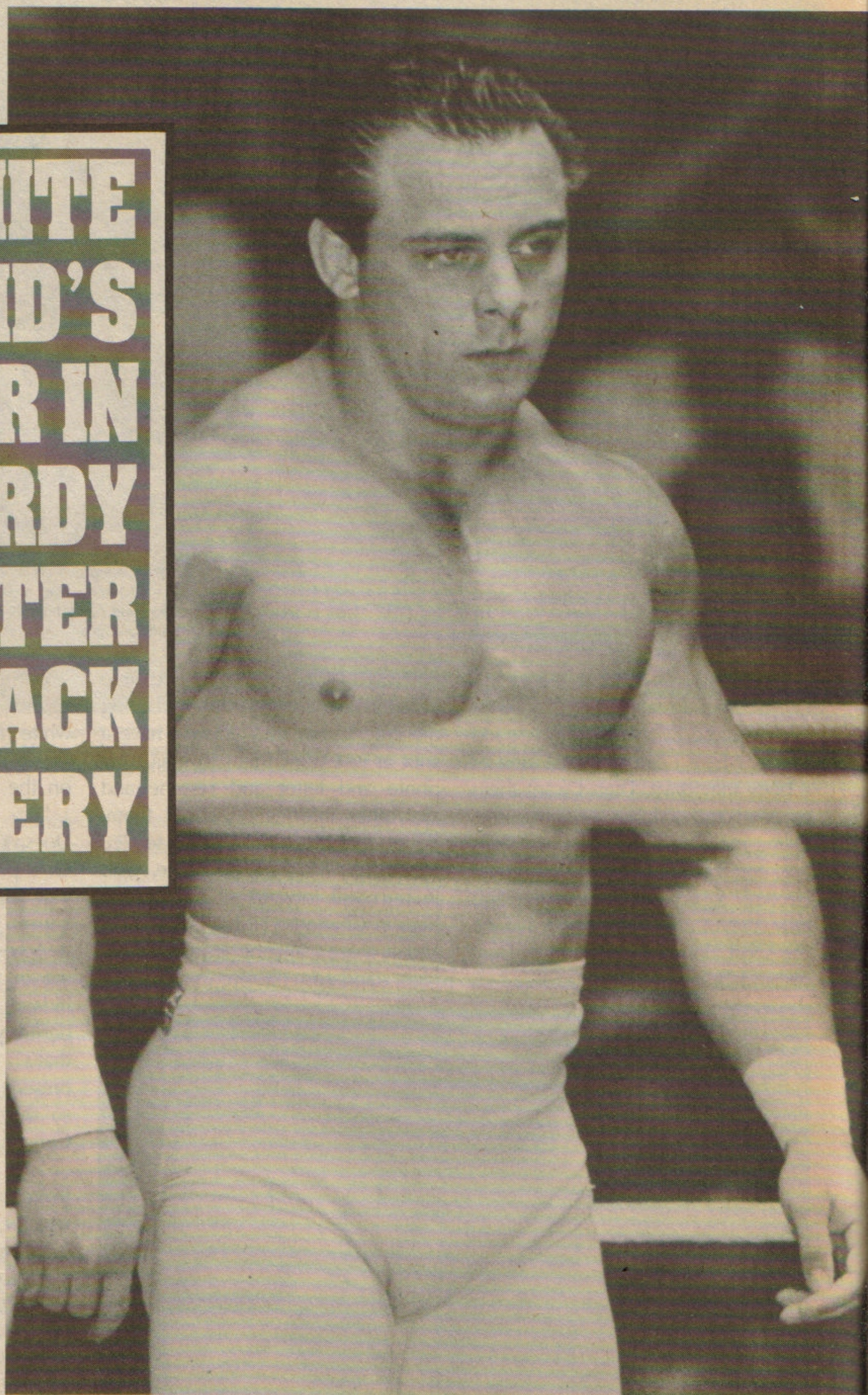


claimed that he didn't have the medal with him . . . Weeks later, Williams refused to return the medal and demanded a title match . . . This series of events turned Williams into one of the most hated men in the Mid-South area . . . It also led to his friendship with Ted DiBiase . . . DiBiase and Williams formed a tag team and defeated The Rock 'n' Roll Express for the Mid-South belts on May 3, 1985, in Houston . . . This was especially impressive because only months later, the Rock 'n' Rolls moved on to the World Championship area and won the NWA World tag team title . . . On the afternoon of June 5, 1985, in Shreveport, Williams took a vicious elbow in the eye from Brad Armstrong . . . The elbow knocked Williams out of the ring where his eye hit the steel ringpost . . .

The combined blows opened a huge cut that required 108 stitches . . . Doctors recommended that Williams retire for the year . . . But Dr. Death came back that same night and teamed with DiBiase to defeat The Fantastics . . . This incredible feat has become legend in wrestling circles and earned Williams' billing as the toughest man in wrestling . . . The following month DiBiase and Williams lost the Mid-South belts to Wendell Cooley and Al Perez in Shreveport . . . DiBiase and Williams became fan favorites again toward the end of 1985 . . . Regained the belts on December 20, 1985, by beating Eddie Gilbert and The Nightmare . . . Williams was voted 1985's "Most Improved Wrestler" by the readers of *PWT* . . . Lost the tag team belts for the final time to The Shepherders on March 16, 1986, in Oklahoma City . . . Has teamed periodically with Taylor in the past year . . . Williams and Taylor represented the Mid-South in the inaugural Crockett Cup tag team tournament and made it to the quarterfinals, where they were eliminated in a draw decision against Ivan and Nikita Koloff . . . This past summer, Williams was the victim of a piledriver on the cement floor by Terry Gordy . . . Williams was sent to the hospital in traction but came back to gain revenge on The Freebirds . . . Since Mid-South wrestling changed its name to the UWF, Williams has become a more dominant singles wrestler . . . Currently zeroing in on One Man Gang's UWF title . . . Recently won the inaugural \$50,000 *PWT*/UWF Challenge Tournament by defeating OMG in the final, though the UWF title was not on the line . . . "The title should be mine before long," says Williams. "I beat him in the *PWT* tournament for the money and now I'll beat him for the belt." □

DYNAMITE KID'S CAREER IN JEOPARDY AFTER BACK SURGERY

By Craig Peters



FOLLOWING AN INJURY sustained in a match on December 13 in Hamilton, Ontario, Dynamite Kid underwent surgery to have a disc removed from his spine. Doctors are not saying if he will ever wrestle again.

Dynamite Kid collapsed during a WWF World tag team title match against Magnificent Muraco and Cowboy Bob Orton at Copps Coliseum when Muraco kneed him in the back from the ring apron as Dynamite was criss-crossing the ring. Davey Boy Smith had to fend off a wild Muraco, who was attacking the injured Dynamite with a chair, as he carried his longtime tag team partner back to the dressing room.

Dynamite, who was paralyzed in the left leg, was taken first to a Hamilton hospital, then to Toronto, and then was flown to Calgary in an ambulance plane. Dynamite requested to be taken to Holy Cross Hospital in Calgary because he had undergone back, shoulder, and knee treatments there in the past.

Following admittance to Holy Cross Hospital, doctors diagnosed severe spinal disc and nerve damage. Dynamite was listed in satisfactory condition and underwent three hours of surgery on December 23 to have the disc removed from the lower portion of his spine. He was allowed to go home for a two-day visit for the holidays and was readmitted on January 1.

A medical source close to the case said that with the exception of a minor setback in the convalescent course, Dynamite has been recovering from surgery on schedule. It has been reported that Dynamite has been responding very well to treatment, and that the setback is not anticipated to be a problem.

When asked about the prognosis for a full recovery and whether Dynamite Kid will be able to wrestle

I would say that he would have a great deal of difficulty returning from a radical disc operation.

—Dr. Jacob J. Muchnick

again, the medical source offered no comment.

The injury should in no way be regarded lightly by the fans, and especially by Dynamite Kid. There are 24 ring-shaped bones in the spine called vertebrae, stacked one on top of the other. Between each pair of vertebrae are the intervertebral discs. Consisting of a jelly-like substance with a fibrous covering, these discs act as shock-absorbing cushions for the spine. They are surrounded by ligaments that attach them to the vertebrae. The disc that was removed from Dynamite's spine was located between the L4 and L5 vertebrae, which is in the lower back.

According to Dr. Jacob J. Muchnick, a chiropractic authority consulted by *Pro Wrestling Illustrated*, removal of the disc between the L4 and L5 vertebrae is "a very nasty operation. Anytime you get involved in that area, it's serious business.

"One of the major problems you run into when a disc is removed," Muchnick continued, "is you have a tremendous loss of flexibility. The effects are permanent and it's difficult to recover from. The scar tissue that forms also is limiting; it tends to tighten up the area. Different problems will be created, one of which is nerve root irritation.

"Very often, the problem you try to correct creates a new problem. I would say that he would have a great deal of difficulty returning from a radical disc operation. Someone not quite as acrobatic as he may be able to recuperate a little bit faster. But for him to try to regain his for-

mer form is going to take a great deal of rehabilitation."

Where does this injury leave Dynamite Kid, The British Bulldogs, and the WWF World tag team title?

Several sources have reported that Dynamite has had back trouble for at least the past year. Indeed, back spasms and the potential for permanent injury had kept Dynamite from touring Japan and Calgary over the past year.

Dynamite will turn 28 years old in 1987, but his body displays the kind of damage that a wrestler twice his age might not even approach. The incredible aerial style of The British Bulldogs does not lend itself to a healthy body after several years of nightly punishment.

Unfortunately, it appears that in the case of Dynamite Kid, the nightly punishment has caught up to him.

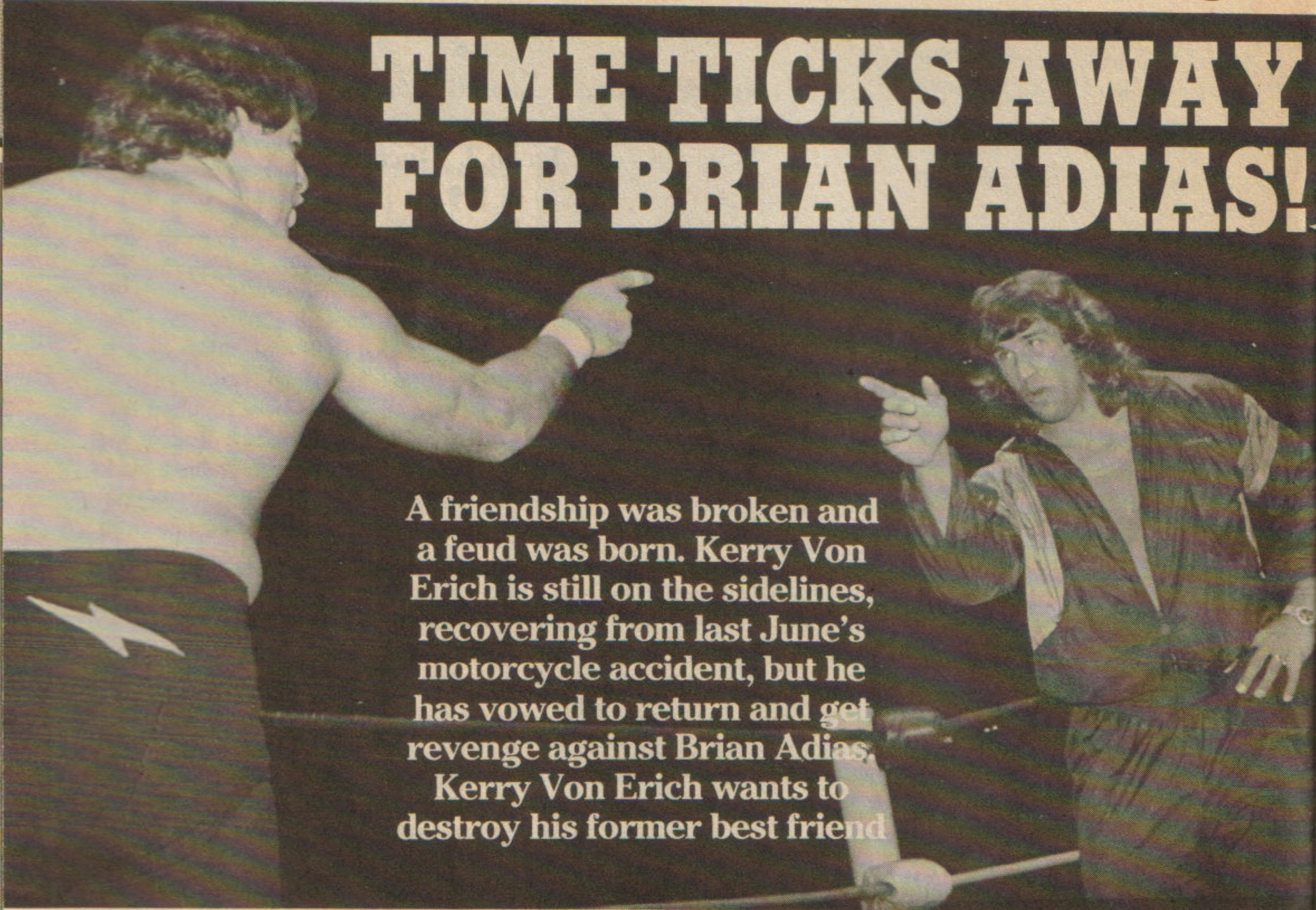
What can WWF officials do in response to this situation? One alternative is to allow Davey Boy Smith to choose a new partner for title matches. Another alternative is to vacate the title and hold a tournament to determine new champions. A third course of action would be to simply wait and see—Dynamite Kid is a tenacious individual, and if anyone can come back from such an injury, he can.

But even if he does return, one thing is certain: physically, Dynamite Kid will never be the same. As a result of the operation, his mobility and agility will be severely curtailed.

The days of the high-flying and reckless British Bulldogs could very well be over. □

Kerry Von Erich's Countdown To Revenge:

TIME TICKS AWAY FOR BRIAN ADIAS!

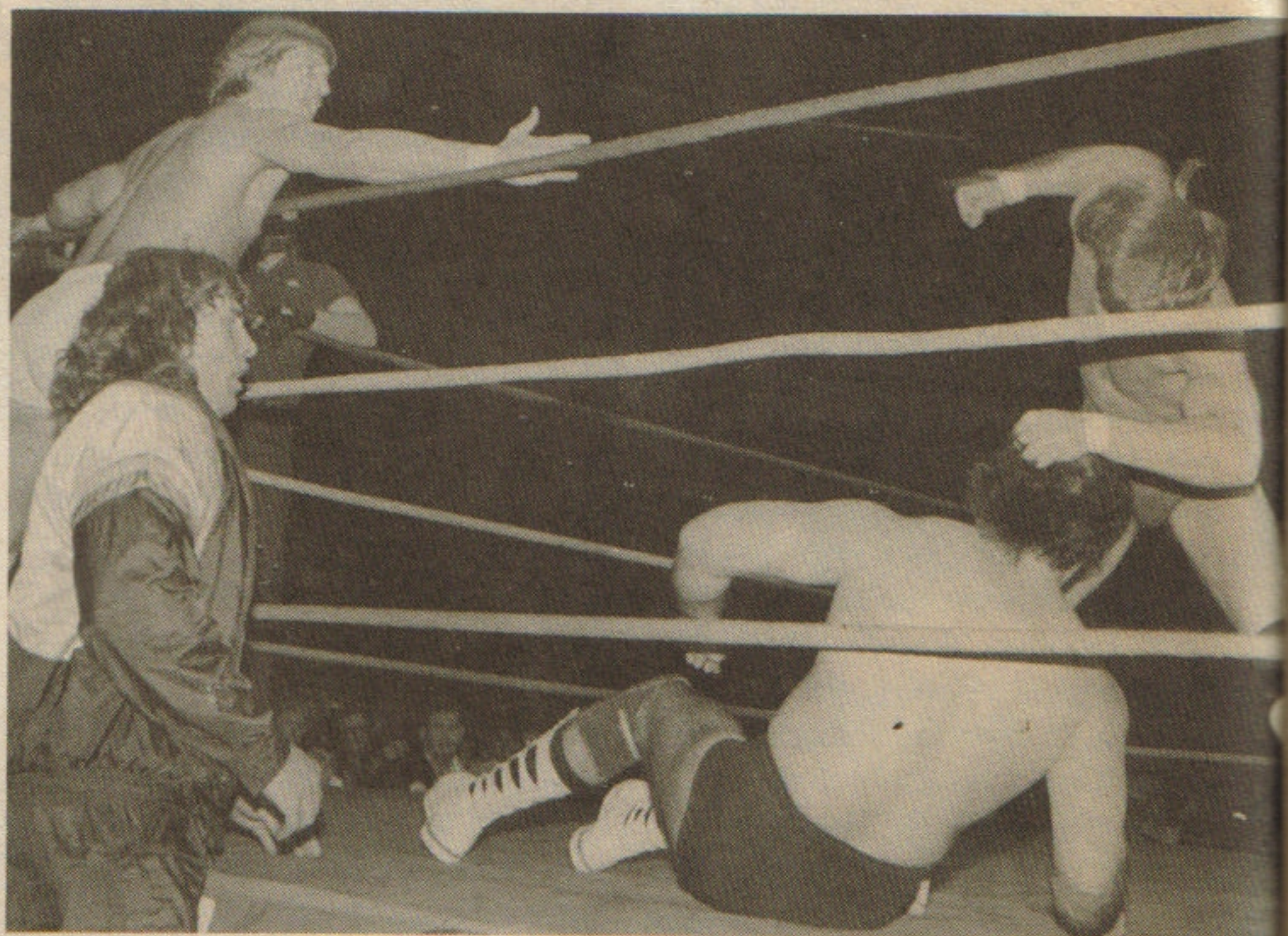


A friendship was broken and a feud was born. Kerry Von Erich is still on the sidelines, recovering from last June's motorcycle accident, but he has vowed to return and get revenge against Brian Adias. Kerry Von Erich wants to destroy his former best friend.

BRIAN ADIAS ONCE was the perfect best friend. "When Kerry got into the accident last June, who do you think was the first guy at the hospital?" asks Mike Von Erich rhetorically. "Brian, that's who, and now look what's happened. They'd kill each other if they had the chance."

Even as one reviews the stunning events that have taken place since late October, it's hard to believe that Brian Adias is now a mortal enemy of the Von Erichs. Isn't this the man who grew up in Denton, Texas, right alongside David, Kevin, Kerry, and Mike? Isn't this the guy who once said that he'd risk his life for the Von Erichs? Isn't this the man who once said, "The Von Erichs are like a family to me"?

And Kerry Von Erich, just like a



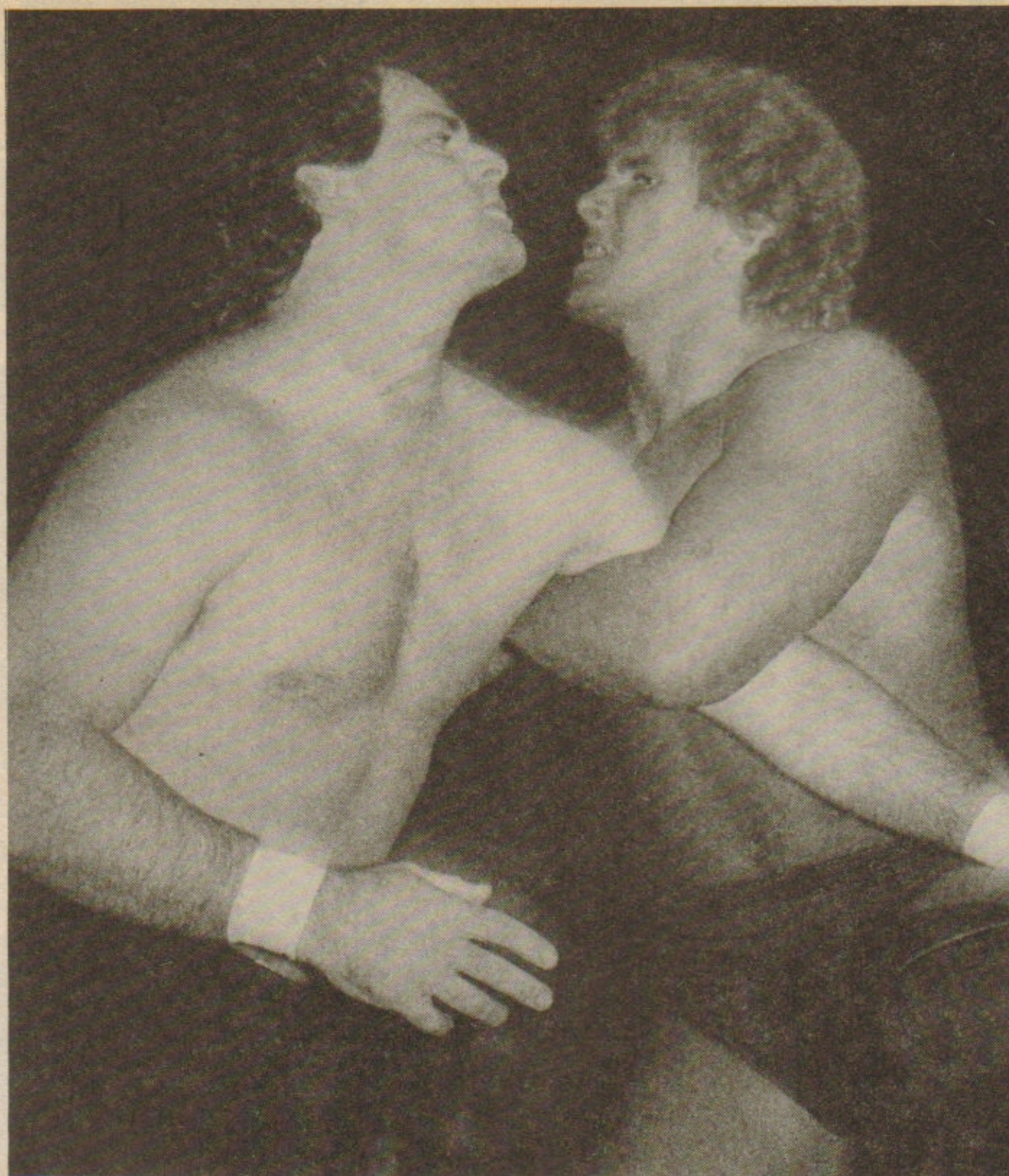
As Kevin Von Erich calls for the tag, his brother Mike slugs Al Madril who, along with Brian Adias, holds the World Class tag team title. Kerry Von Erich watches at ringside as he plots to get back at his old friend Adias.

brother. "Sometimes when we were on the road," Kevin recalls, "I'd ask Kerry what he was doing for dinner and nine out of 10 times, he had plans with Brian. It wasn't like Kerry was trying to take advantage of Brian or Brian was trying to capitalize off the Von Erich name. They were just great friends."

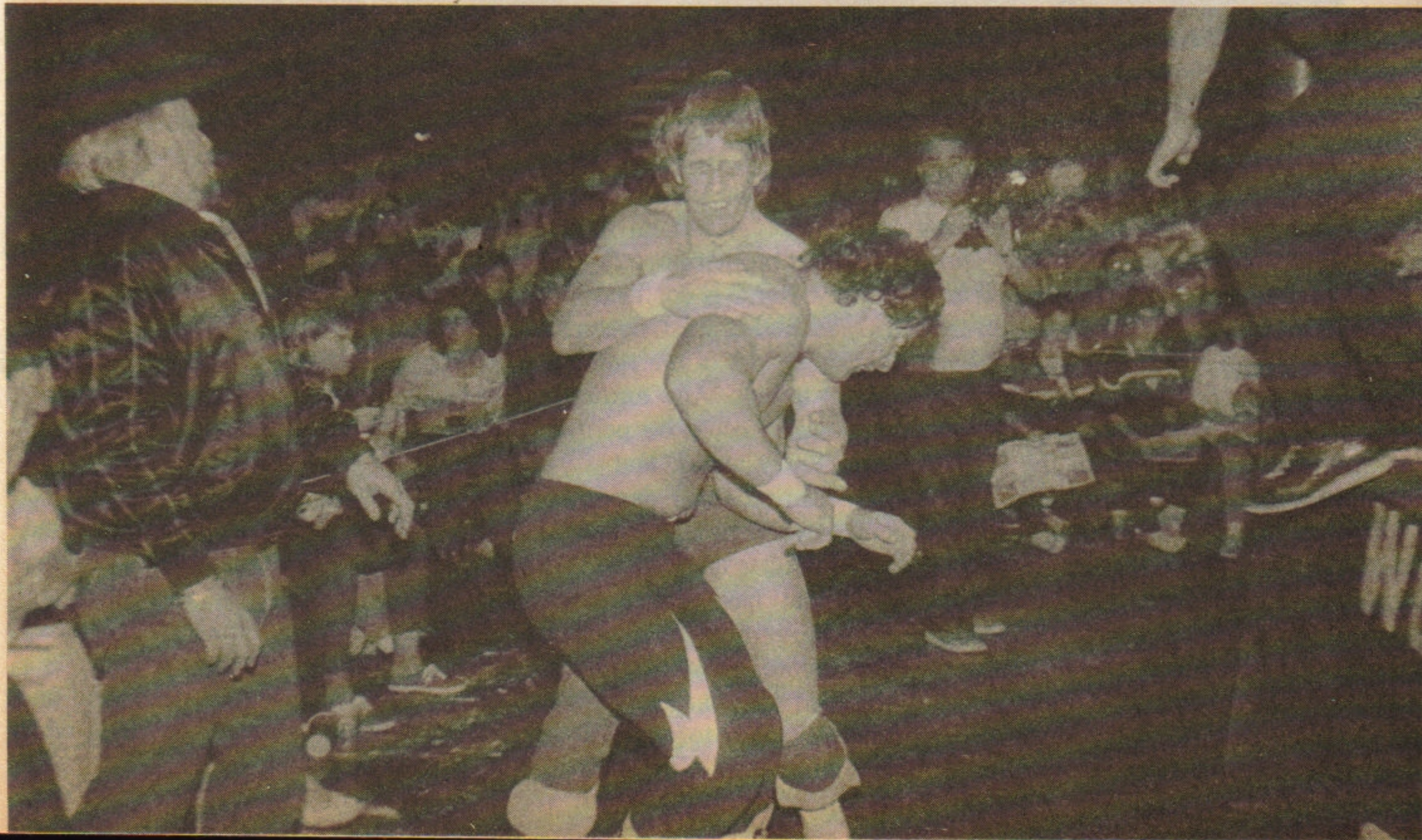
So how does one explain what happened on November 10, 1986, in Fort Worth, Texas, a few weeks after Adias had attacked Mike during what was supposed to be a scientific match? That was the night that Adias was doing an interview along with Al Madril, sworn enemy of the Von Erichs, and Kerry came into the ring and requested an audience with Adias.

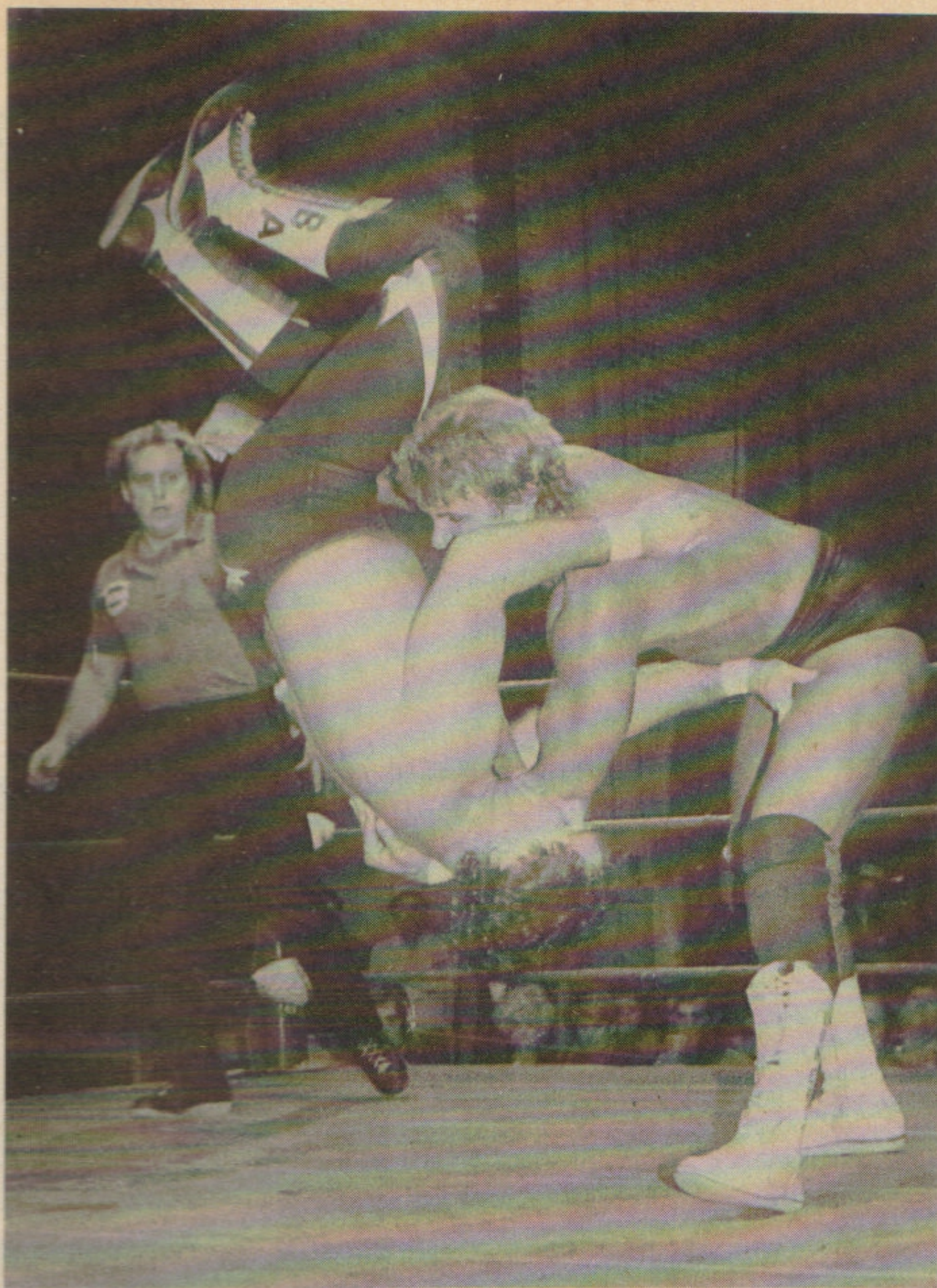
Kerry, still on crutches, got involved in a shoving match with Madril. Madril knocked down Von Erich and beat his bad foot with the crutch. The effects were disastrous: Kerry had targeted Christmas as his return date, but now he will be out indefinitely. Perhaps equally as painful, it took Kevin Von Erich to rescue his brother; Adias just stood and watched.

"If someone were to tell me that Brian would stand by and watch



Adias and Lance Von Erich exchange grimaces as they lock up (above). Lance will do anything to see that his cousins aren't wronged. Mike takes Adias out on to the floor for a beating (below). Late last year, in what was supposed to be a scientific match, Adias turned against Mike and the entire Von Erich family.





In a match that would not have taken place one year ago, Lance slams Adias. With Kerry in the lead, the entire Von Erich family has sworn revenge on Adias, a man who was once so close to them. When Kerry recovers from his injuries, Adias will be in for a Texas-style whipping.

someone deliberately injure anybody, especially Kerry, I'd say they were crazy," said Kevin. "Brian was absolutely distraught when Kerry got into that accident, and this is a total 360-degree turn. If you ask me, Brian needs to see a shrink. The man has serious problems."

And his problems will compound when Kerry returns to the ring on an active basis. Kerry has vowed that he will return, and when he does his target will be his former best friend. "What happened to me is gonna look like small change when you see what I'm gonna do to that man," says Kerry. "He's gonna look like he got run over by a convoy of 18-wheelers."

Right now, there's nothing Kerry can do about the Adias situation, other than stand in the corner while his brothers wrestle their new enemy. Kerry is confined to crutches and under strict doctor's orders to remain out of the ring and keep out of trouble. Any further injuries, they warn, could be permanent.

So Kerry works, and works, and gets ready for that day in the near future when he'll step into the ring against Adias and proceed with this feud that has been put on hold. "I've never been in a situation like this before," says Kerry. "It's like the feud started, but it has to wait until I'm ready to return. It's incredibly frustrating."

Frustrating, yes, but as each day goes by, the hatred for Adias builds up inside Kerry. Only two people who once had such strong positive feelings for each other can harbor such strong negative feelings for each other. "I'll sometimes be sitting around and I get the urge to call Brian and see what he's doing," says Kerry. "Then I suddenly remember that we're not friends anymore. It's a tough adjustment."

"Then, once that clicks, it gets worse. I think about all the good times and all the family has done for him, and I just get angrier and angrier until I want to run out and just kill the man," continues Kerry. "I swear, when I get the chance, I'm gonna destroy him, not necessarily for what he did to me, but for the honor of my family."

Nobody is sure when Kerry will return. At the time of the accident last June, doctors projected that Kerry would not be able to return for at least a year. Kerry vowed to come back earlier, and he might have if he didn't further injure the leg during the recent attack. Now it looks as if the doctor's original projections might be correct.

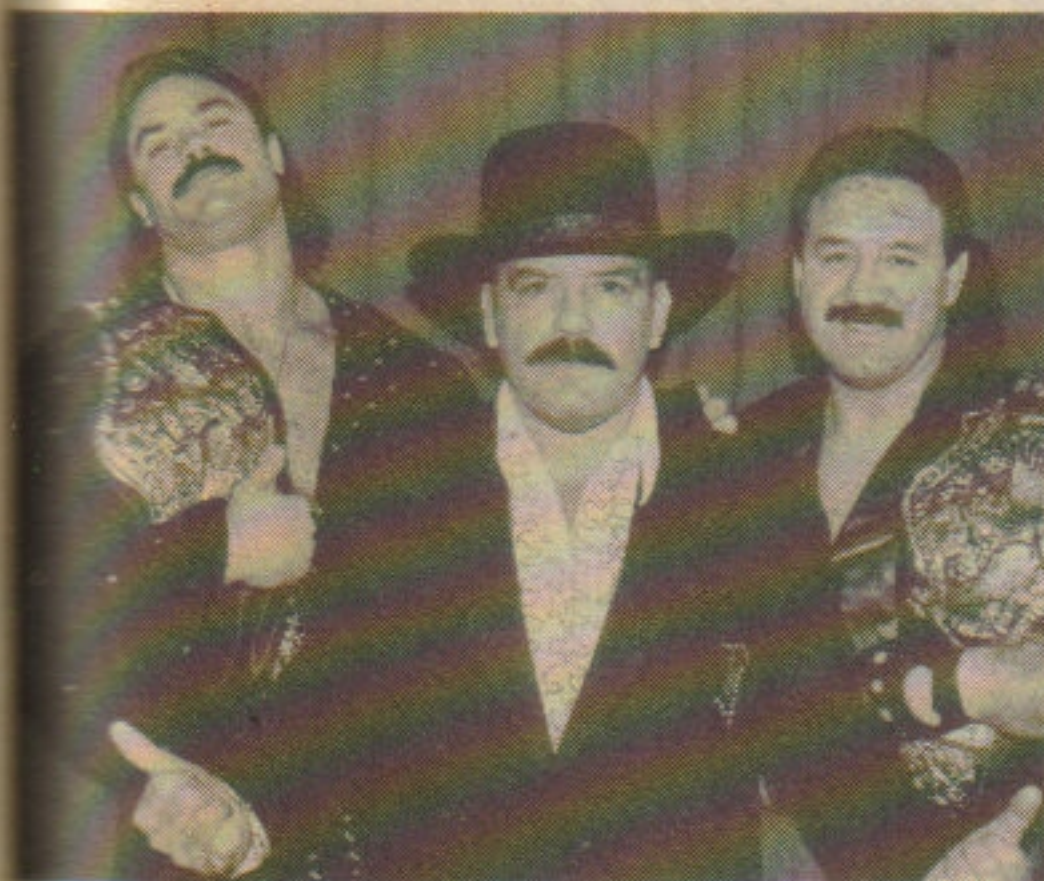
Imagine, if you possibly can, how much hatred Kerry will have built up by then. Things are not going to get any better. There seems to be no hope for an Adias-Von Erich reconciliation. Too much has happened. Too many feelings have been exposed. It's tough for people who have disappointed each other so much. It's hard to get the pieces back together.

So the countdown is on and time is ticking down for Brian Adias. The Kerry Von Erich he'll meet somewhere down the line will be much angrier, much more violent, and much more dangerous than anyone he has ever wrestled. There's friendship involved. Friendship and trust. A friendship and trust that was broken so hideously by Adias.

Showdown day is near. And one has to wonder if Adias knew what he was getting into. □

ALL THE RIGHT MOVES

Printing that Rick Rude may have made the "Lousy Career Move of 1986" by coming to World Championship Wrestling, as Craig Peters did in February's "In Focus," may be the Lousy Journalism Move of All Time. In my opinion, WCW is the only wrestling association that even exists. Rude has aligned himself with



Rick Rude, Paul Jones, and Manny Fernandez are a fabulous combination, in the opinion of Renee Payne. She believes Rude may eventually win the NWA World title.

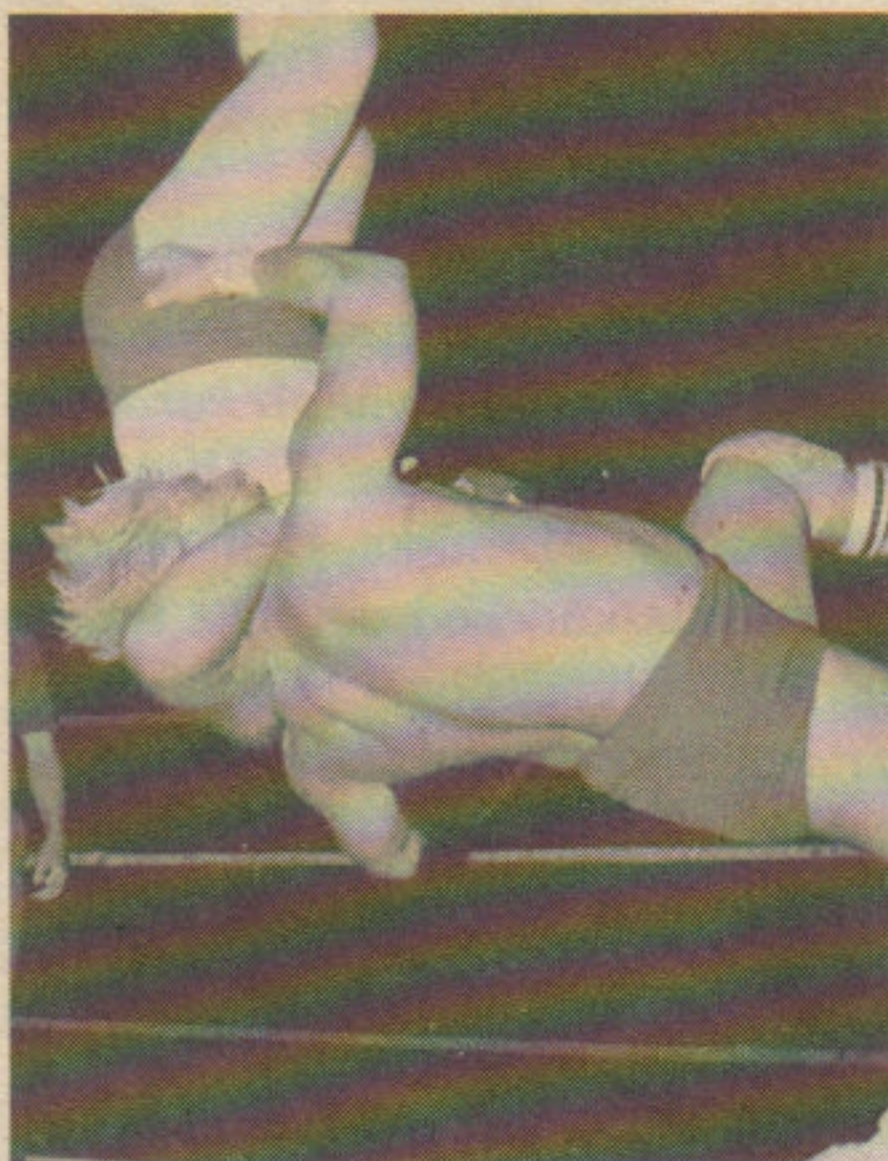
WCW's finest manager, Mr. Paul Jones. Since WCW is the only "real" wrestling alliance, then Mr. Jones is the World's Greatest Manager. Under the guidance of Jones, Rude and Manny Fernandez easily took care of The Rock 'n' Roll Express and won the NWA World tag team title. Although I personally dislike Fernandez, he is a very talented wrestler. The Fernandez-Rude combination is simply awesome.

A man with the wrestling genius of Paul Jones is often misunderstood. One can only guess as to what The Army's next move will be. But Rick Rude should not be counted out of the NWA World title scene. Ric Flair currently has his hands full with Nikita Koloff, but a match with Rude could be slipped in between Nikita and the monotony of Dusty Rhodes and Ricky Morton. The entire wrestling world could be in for a "Rude Awakening"!

RENEE PAYNE
Mars Hill, NC □

KING'S COURT

(Continued from page 10)



Tommy "Wildfire" Rich suplexes Jerry Lawler, who he is now feuding with in the Mid-Southern area. Rich's career may be on the rebound, writes Editor-in-Chief Peter King.

20s, and the future looked blindingly bright for the handsome Tennessee native. He was voted *PWI's* Rookie of the Year in 1978, the Most Improved Wrestler of 1979, and, in a career highlight, was voted the Most Popular Wrestler of 1981. But a short five-day NWA reign seemed to kill all the self-confidence he had. It wasn't long before Rich dropped from the Top 10 and found himself in regional promotions. Today, Tommy is wrestling for the Mid-Southern promotion, and our scouts tell us they see a revitalization in his wrestling form. Often, Wildfires start from a streak of lightning. Perhaps, lightning will strike twice for Tommy Rich.

Kerry Von Erich: The number is legendary for those who play wrestling Trivial Pursuit: 43,517. That's the number of fans who witnessed Kerry's thrilling NWA title victory on May 6, 1984. Since that time, it's been one problem after another for Kerry. He lost the NWA belt back to Ric Flair just 18 days after he had won it. Then, about a year-and-a-half later, the promotion for which Kerry wrestles made a disastrous decision to pull out of the NWA. Kerry Von Erich was wrestling for the World

Class area, but the area was no longer world class. The final—and most serious—problem happened on June 4, 1986, when Kerry was involved in a near-fatal motorcycle accident that has sidelined him from the sport ever since. Kerry is expected back in action shortly, and he is still young enough to recover fully from his injuries. But the more serious injury



When Kerry Von Erich recovers from his motorcycle accident, he'll help the World Class area recover from its recent slump. And that's good news for wrestling fans everywhere.

now seems to be to the World Class area. These days, the World Class has trouble pulling in 43,517 fans in a month, let alone in a single night.

Beginning next month, we will have a brand-new feature for you. It will be called "Media Review," and it will alternate each month with our popular "Scouting Reports" column. "Media Review" will take a close look at how TV and other communications media present wrestling. We expect to have a no-holds-barred look at some of the top wrestling shows, with incisive reviews of the announcers and the programs themselves. If you have any topics you want "Media Review" to examine, drop us a line today.

See you next month. □

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STEVE WILLIAMS

(Continued from page 34)

with OMG right on top of him, and referee Tommy Gilbert stopped just short of the three-count when Williams kicked out.

The UWF has become known for its anything-can-happen style of wrestling and the finish of this match was no different. After approximately 21 minutes of action, Gilbert was knocked out in a three-way collision. Manager Skandor Akbar ran into the ring and yelled at the bloody One Man Gang to jump off the ropes and onto the groggy Williams.

But Gang missed and Gilbert crawled back into the action. Mustering up all of his desire and strength, Williams slowly dragged his body on top of One Man Gang for the pin. Three beats of the hand later, Williams was \$50,000 richer.

"Winning this tournament is one of the great moments of my career," said Dr. Death. "I know that PWI is respected by fans all over the world and that makes this whole tournament so much more important. Don't be fooled, though, this whole tournament was a struggle."

The tournament (which, surprisingly, was born out of an ordinary editorial board meeting and grew into something much larger) began on October 31 in Houston, when Taylor defeated Landell. Two days later in Ft. Worth, Eddie Gilbert and John Tatum battled to a disqualification and, because of tournament rules governing advancement to subsequent rounds, were both eliminated.

But there still was plenty of action remaining and, in fact, both finalists appeared in tournament matches on November 9 in Tulsa. Williams defeated Sting and Gang beat Jeff Gaylord. Michael Hayes and Hacksaw Duggan were both eliminated with a double-disqualification. The first round ended on November 18 in Monroe, Louisiana,

when Buddy Roberts defeated Ice-man Parsons.

So it was on to round two where the action really heated up. All of a sudden, the idea of a \$50,000 check became reality for many of the wrestlers. The remainder of the tournament would be an ordeal for all involved.

On November 20, Roberts eliminated Taylor in an incredible match and the Angel of Death defeated Savannah Jack. Five days later in Baton Rouge, One Man Gang was scheduled to take on the winner of the Tatum-Gilbert match, but because both men had been eliminated, Gang got a free ticket to the semifinals in Houston.

In the semis, Dr. Death took on longtime rival Buddy Roberts in a match that would have been outstanding without the tournament. With the money there as added incentive, the match was even better. "That might have been the best match of the tournament," said Watts. Then, One Man Gang defeated The Angel of Death to set up the final.

"We're very pleased with the way things turned out," said Watts. "We were hoping to both entertain our fans and give the UWF added national exposure. I think we achieved both ends."

"This tournament has tremendous growth potential," said King. "Other federations have contacted us about sponsoring tournaments and we're going to look into each offer very carefully. We're hoping that this is the beginning of something special for wrestling. There's definitely room for our magazines and the individual promotions working together to build up the sport. This is an idea whose time has come."

And even if a rulebreaker wins next year, at least the inaugural champion is a man who can be respected. □

RINGSIDE

(Continued from page 8)

time at full strength without Austin Idol around," said Lawler. "I know I could've beaten him."

Blackjack Mulligan won \$50,000 WWF battle royals in Miami and West Palm Beach. **Jerry Brisco**, a longtime favorite in the Florida area, came out of retirement for these matches... The Charlotte Police Department was scheduled to play a basketball game for the benefit of the Police Athletic League against the **Barry Windham**-coached team of **Nikita Koloff**, **The Rock 'n' Roll Express**, **The Road Warriors**, and others. I'll have the result next issue.

There is additional evidence to the speculation that **Andre the Giant** and **Hulk Hogan** are headed for a major feud (see story on page 26). WWF President **Jack Tunney** gave Hogan an award for his three years as champion on a recent "Piper's Pit." Andre came out to shake Hulk's hand, and Hogan commented that Andre "shook his hand very hard." The following week on "Piper's Pit," Tunney gave Andre an award for being undefeated throughout his career. Hogan came out to shake Andre's hand, but The Giant just walked away.

Finally, in another edition of "Pip-

er's Pit," commentator **Jesse Ventura** suggested that something was going on between Andre and Hogan. Ventura started mocking Hogan and Piper, and a fistfight almost developed. Piper said that this whole matter could be settled if he brings in Hogan and Ventura brings in Andre for a confrontation. We'll see what happens!

Bringing you up to date on what is going on in Stampede Wrestling, operating out of Calgary, Alberta: The current North American champion is **Makhan Singh** and the Commonwealth title belongs to **Owen Hart**. The Intercontinental champs are **The Viet Cong Express** and their top challengers are Hart and **Ben Bassarab**. By the way, **Davey Boy Smith** will be there for four weeks, teaming with Hart and Bassarab against Viet Cong Express I, **Gama Singh**, and Makhan Singh.

Southern champion **Lex Luger** passed one of the toughest tests of his career when he defeated **Bruiser Brody** by countout in a \$25,000 bounty match in Lakeland, Florida... **Terry Taylor** and **Hacksaw Duggan** beat **Bad Leroy Brown** and **Bill Irwin** for the UWF tag belts... NWA World champion **Ric Flair** ac-

tually had praise for one of his opponents: **Miguel Perez Jr.**, of Puerto Rican wrestling. Young Perez will get more shots at the champ... **Missy Hyatt** recently suffered a broken thumb and is blaming **Dark Journey** for the injury.

Barry Windham was beaten up by **The Four Horsemen** after commenting on a match in which **Tully Blanchard** illegally pinned **Tim Horner**. Windham went to the ring apron to protest the decision when he was attacked. Flair held Windham in a sleeper while the other Horsemen beat Barry and left him lying flat on his back.

And this just in: **Bam Bam Bigelow**, who is again using his real name, has signed to wrestle the legendary **Antonio Inoki** in Japan.

That's all for now. See you at the matches. □



Bam Bam Bigelow has signed to wrestle in Japan against Antonio Inoki. With the approval of his manager, Larry Sharpe, Bigelow has gone back to using his original name. In Texas, he wrestled as Crusher Yurkof.

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DRESSING ROOM

(Continued from page 12)

ward to. That's fine, I suppose. But where does Crockett Promotions get off passing their NWA TV title off as a regular title to be defended on non-televvised wrestling cards? Throughout Dusty Rhodes' 2½-month championship reign, I can't remember Dusty defending the belt on TV. Only now that Tully Blanchard is champion does it appear that the title will be defended where it should be. One can only hope that it stays that way.

This particular TV title, in times past, was extremely prestigious because the matches were televised nationally on SuperStation WTBS and the exposure the champion received was invaluable. What ultimately happened is that the NWA TV title matches became so hotly contested that the promoters began to feel that they were *too* good for television. So, greedily, they took them off the air and made the fans pay for them.

Hopefully, Crockett Promotions will now keep the TV title in its proper perspective. There might be revenue in adding TV title matches to major arena cards, but in the long run it diminishes the purpose of the title.

Although I am distressed over the news of Dynamite Kid's career-threatening injury, I am pleased with the job Craig Peters did in piecing together the story under almost impossible circumstances.

In major league sports, each team has a public relations department whose job is to keep the press—and ultimately the public—informed. While under no obligation to do so, these PR departments report the injuries of their players to the press, providing details of surgical procedures and

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the athletes' conditions. The reason they provide this service is because they feel an obligation to the fans and respect the fact that these people are genuinely concerned about the injured athletes.

Wrestling does not receive major press coverage, but that does not lessen their responsibility to their fans. When Magnum T.A. was injured in his car accident, Jim Crockett Promotions recognized their obligation and kept the fans apprised of the situation with frequent updates on TV and by offering full cooperation to the press. When we called Charlotte Memorial Hospital, we were given up-to-the-minute updates on Magnum's condition, which allowed us to keep you informed.

When we called Holy Cross Hospital in Calgary for information on Dynamite Kid, we were given even worse than a "no comment." We were given misinformation. When we spoke to the hospital's PR department, we were told that Dynamite Kid was "really doing well" and that "there will be no lasting effects." Presumably, the hospital spokesman who gave us that faulty information (who, incidentally, hung up on me when I pressed for further details) was following orders, orders that most likely came from the WWF.

Fortunately, Craig was able to get more accurate news from other sources and provide the story that appears on page 42.

What does the WWF have to gain by trying to suppress the story? If Dynamite Kid can wrestle again, his fans will be there. If he can't, give them the courtesy of sending him their best wishes—as Magnum T.A.'s fans did for him. In the long run, the story is going to come out in some form. Rather than let rumors and half-truths circulate, the WWF should allow the press to do its job. They don't owe it to us, but they do owe it to the fans. ☐

ON ASSIGNMENT

(Continued from page 18)

she has some ace up her sleeveless blouse. Does that mean I discount her current allegiance to the bullies from Badstreet? No. I've been around too long to discount any possibility. Unfortunately, just because we don't want to believe it doesn't mean it might not be true.

One would think Mr. Ellner's and my columns are intertwined this month. I attended Sam Houston's press conference in Louisiana, in which he said goodbye to the Central States region and mapped out his invasion of the UWF. Houston offered no excuse for his title loss to Bill Dundee. "He took me, beat me for the crown fair and square," Houston said, simply. That's been Sam Houston since he broke into the professional ranks two years ago—straight, direct, forthright. Unfortunately, his wrestling skills mirror that directness. While often showing sparks of brilliance, Houston's repertoire is still too straightforward for him to be of championship calibre. What one sees, one gets, and while Houston has proven himself a competent wrestler, his game requires more innovation before he can become a threat to the champions. The Central States was a perfect proving ground for the young man, a place where his limited, but vastly practiced, skills allowed him to rise to the top.

Now, he claims, he is headed for the UWF with designs on the UWF title currently held by One Man Gang. Ellner is right about this one; OMG is not losing any shut-eye about the confrontation. I contacted One Man Gang at one of his homes outside of Dallas.

"Who? Sam Whoston?," Gang asked. When I explained who he was, the big man let out an irreg-

(Continued on page 58)

A SECOND CHANCE TO CATCH "THE BIG ONE"



The year-end issue of *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* is always the most anticipated wrestling magazine of the year. And the 1985 year-end issue (March 1986 cover date) was the best one we ever published. At 92 pages, it was our biggest magazine ever and, in addition to the year-end features *PWI* readers have come to expect, it contained eight full-color pages. We have limited supplies of this newsstand sell-out, so don't be disappointed twice. Order your copy today. Only \$5.00.

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PRESS CONFERENCE

(Continued from page 31)



Albano played a big role in the movie *Wise Guys*, starring Joe Piscopo. The Captain is proud of his acting career, saying that he's already one of Hollywood's biggest stars. So even though he's out of managing, Albano is still boastful of his accomplishments.

Lauper and I are national co-chairmen of fundraising for the foundation. Over the past two years, we have raised some \$10 million to fight this dreaded disease that strikes children and adults alike. We will not rest until we have whipped this ugly disease, uglier than The Captain, and that's pretty ugly.

PETERS: We all admire the work you've done. I'd like to ask you about your budding acting career. I closely follow the entertainment industry, and from what I've read and heard, you have a lot of potential.

ALBANO: Not potential, Craig, ability. In a very short time I have established myself as one of Hollywood's finest. I had a big part in the movie *Wise Guys*, I have appeared in several Cyndi Lauper videos, I've been on 227, the TV show, and I'm appearing in *Body Slam*, which is another movie. And, may I add, I spent a week on *Hollywood Squares*. All the producers have recognized my natural, God-given talents, which wrestling fans have known for years. Now everyone across the country and around the world knows how great The Captain is.

RODRIGUEZ: Are there any circumstances under which you might return to active managing?

ALBANO: Although I have no plans now, anything is possible. There might be a young man out there who is saying, "Captain, I am a good wrestler, but only you could make me a great one. Only you can guide me to the top." Then I might think about coming back.

ROSENBAUM: Would you go somewhere besides the WWF?

ALBANO: That is improbable, but not impossible. The Captain believes in keeping all the doors of opportunity open.

APTER: For the third time in your career, the fans have named you PWI's Manager of the Year. What does this award mean to you?

ALBANO: Let me first thank all the beautiful fans out there for giving me this prestigious award, the most prestigious in all professional sports. *Pro Wrestling Illustrated*, daddy, is the greatest magazine in the world and I am honored and proud and pleased that I have been recognized as the best manager in the world today. You'll notice Bobby Heenan didn't get it. Freddie Blassie didn't get it. I got it, daddy, The Captain himself. Yeah.

PETERS: Captain, the same fans who voted you this honor are also proba-

bly very concerned about the future of George "The Animal" Steele. Since leaving your care, he seems to have regressed. He seems lost without you.


ALBANO: George Steele was the most vicious, the meanest, the toughest wrestler in the world before he came under my tutelage. I taught the man how to function as a normal human being. George's only crime, I believe, if you can call it that, was that he was misunderstood as a child because he had a speech impediment. If the fans show him the love and understanding that he needs, The Animal will do alright, even without The Captain's guidance.

RODRIGUEZ: I disagree with Craig about Steele. Unfortunately, I don't think the fans care about him anymore, especially now that you're not managing him. He doesn't have much of a future in the sport wrestling tag matches with Junkyard Dog and biting turnbuckles.

APTER: Andy's right, Captain. Don't you think George should retire?

ALBANO: Willie, that is the most cockamamie, most ridiculous thing you have ever said. George Steele is beloved by fans worldwide and I would never counsel him to retire. I believe the man has 10 good years of wrestling ahead of him. I am surprised you would say such a terrible thing about George.

ROSENBAUM: Let's end this interview on an up note. Who would you say was the greatest tag team you ever managed?

ALBANO: There were so many fine teams, but I believe my greatest combined effort was The British Bulldogs. Dynamite Kid and Davey Boy Smith came to me and said, "Captain, we have all the moves, but we need your managerial genius to put us over the top. We believe you are the only one who can do it." It wasn't long before I guided them to the World championship. They were the final monument to my greatness. 



This special feature is for all fans who want to know who won and who lost . . . and how. *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* will print eyewitness reports from correspondents who attend the matches. If you'd like to have your correspondent report printed in the world's largest-selling wrestling magazine, send it to: *Arena Report*; *PWI*, Box 48; Rockville Centre, NY 11571.

BALTIMORE ARENA (Baltimore, MD): Nikita Koloff defeated Ric Flair by disqualification . . . Dusty Rhodes won a \$25,000 25-man bunkhouse battle royal . . . The Road Warriors beat The Midnight Express . . . Big Bubba beat Ronnie Garvin by countout in a Louisville street fight . . . The Kansas Jayhawks beat Ivan Koloff & Krusher Khrushchev . . . Brad Armstrong beat Shaska Whatley.

—Rick Heiger

CAPITAL CENTRE (Landover, MD): Hulk Hogan defeated Kamala . . . Hercules Hernandez defeated Koko B. Ware . . . Blackjack Mulligan beat Nikolai Volkoff . . . Jacques & Raymond Rougeau battled to a time limit draw with Brutus Beefcake & Greg Valentine . . . Brett Hart & Jim Neidhart defeated Cpl. Kirchner & Dick Slater . . . The Fabulous Moolah beat Leilani Kei . . . Butch Reed defeated Jerry Allen . . . Samoan Sika beat Jose Luis Rivera . . . Siva Afi defeated Steve Lombardi . . . Paul Roma beat Tiger Chung Lee.

—Robert Day

COPPS COLISEUM (Hamilton, ON): Randy Savage and Roddy Piper were both counted out . . . The British Bulldogs beat Magnificent Muraco & Bob Orton . . . Adrian Adonis beat Koko B. Ware . . . The Iron Sheik & Nikolai Volkoff defeated The Islanders . . . King Kong Bundy beat George Steele by disqualification . . . Dick Slater pinned Frenchy Martin . . . The Wild Samoan beat Lanny Poffo . . . Jerry Allen defeated Rene Goulet.

—John Barbera

CONVENTION CENTER (Cleveland): The Road Warriors defeated The Midnight Express in a scaffold match . . . Bubba Rogers defeated Ronnie Garvin in a Louisville street fight . . . The Kansas Jayhawks beat Ivan Koloff & Krusher Khrushchev in a Texas tornado match . . . Tully Blanchard defeated Brad Armstrong by disqualification . . . Denny Brown and Hector Guerrero battled to a 20-minute draw . . . Jimmy Valiant & Baron Von Raschke beat Shaska Whatley & Gary Royal . . . Ricky Lee Jones defeated Super D . . . Tim Horner defeated Eddie Roberts.

—Kevin Blair

PAUL SAUVE ARENA (Montreal): Gino Brito Jr. defeated Rocky Della Serra . . . Armand Rougeau beat Bob Della Serra . . . Joe Lightfoot & Sunny War Cloud battled to a draw against Pretty Boy Simmes & "Nature Boy" Gordie Rogers . . . Sheik Ali was disqualified for smashing Dan Kroffat with a chair . . . Steve Strong defeated Jerry Morrow . . . David Shultz won by disqualification over Richard Charland when Steve Strong interfered.

—Lori Joyce

ROSEMONT HORIZON (Rosemont, IL): Tim Horner pinned Shaska Whatley . . . Brad Armstrong and Jimmy Garvin wrestled to a draw . . . Wahoo McDaniel defeated Rick Rude by disqualification . . . The Rock 'n' Roll Express defeated Ivan Koloff & Krusher Khrushchev . . . The Road Warriors beat The Midnight Express . . . Dusty Rhodes & Nikita Koloff beat Ric Flair & Tully Blanchard . . . Road Warrior Animal won a \$50,000 bunkhouse stampede.

—Jerry W. Vela

SHOWBOAT SPORTS PAVILLION (Las Vegas): Yuri Gordyenko & Alexis Smirnoff pinned Bobby Bold Eagle & Pete Sanchez . . . Greg Gagne beat Tony Leone . . . Col. DeBeers defeated Mike Richards . . . Larry Zbyszko defeated Eddie Sweat . . . Doug Somers & Buddy Rose pinned Bobby Bold Eagle & Sonny Rodgers . . . Leon White beat Rick Gantner.

—Ryan Mikkelsen

SPARTAN SPORTS CENTRE (Tampa, FL): Ric Flair defeated Kendall Windham . . . Jerry Rich beat The Cuban Assassin . . . Tyree Pride defeated Jim Backlund . . . The Falcon beat Ron Bass by disqualification . . . Lex Luger defeated The Black Ninja.

—Ricky Lane

SPOKANE COLISEUM (Spokane, WA): Roddy Piper beat Randy Savage by disqualification . . . The British Bulldogs defeated The Hart Foundation . . . Tito Santana and Hercules Hernandez battled to a draw . . . B. Brian Blair defeated Moondog Spot . . . The Honky Tonk Man beat Lanny Poffo.

—Renee Katrusko



DORTON ARENA (Raleigh, NC): Bubba Rogers won a \$25,000, 25-man bunkhouse stampede ... Denny Brown and Hector Guerrero battled to a draw ... Tim Horner defeated Bill Dundee ... Dusty Rhodes & Nikita Koloff defeated Ric Flair & Tully Blanchard in a bullrope-and-chain match ... Brad Armstrong defeated Konga the Barbarian ... Ivan Koloff won by disqualification over Dutch Mantel ... Nelson Royal won by disqualification over Shaska Whatley.
—Charles Camp

HEIGES FIELDHOUSE (Shippensburg, PA): J.T. Southern wrestled Mad Dog Drake to a draw ... The Wild Samoans defeated The Executioners ... Chief Jay Strongbow Jr. won by disqualification over Kevin Sullivan when Fallen Angel interfered ... Wendi Richter pinned Peggy Lee ... Sgt. Slaughter beat Sheik Al-Shaad.
—Melissa Hockenberry

JOE LOUIS ARENA (Detroit): Roddy Piper defeated Adrian Adonis ... Magnificent Muraco & Bob Orton beat Mike Rotundo & Dan Spivey ... Junkyard Dog defeated King Kong Bundy by disqualification ... Billy Jack Haynes beat The Iron Sheik ... Randy Savage defeated George Steele by countout ... Dino Bravo pinned S.D. Jones ... The Honky Tonk Man beat Scott McGhee ... Pedro Morales defeated Frenchy Martin ... Lanny Poffo beat Jack Kruger ... Barry O pinned Jerry Valiant.
—Mark Lulajuraj

KNOXVILLE CIVIC COLISEUM (Knoxville, TN): Tom Pritchard defeated Roy Lee Welch ... Tony Anthony & Jerry Stubbs wrestled to a draw against The Nightmares ... Don Wright defeated Kris Von Colt by disqualification ... Adrian Street defeated Rip Rogers ... Tennessee Stud & Robert Fuller defeated The New Guinea Headhunters ... Steve Armstrong defeated Kevin Sullivan in a \$100,000 pole match.
—Stacy Mealer

MISSISSIPPI COAST COLISEUM (Gulfport, MS): Gary Young beat Ken Massey ... Mike George defeated Jeff Gaylord ... Bad Leroy Brown & Bill Irwin defeated The Fantastics ... The Missing Link beat Rick Steiner ... Dark Journey defeated Missy Hyatt by disqualification ... Savannah Jack defeated Sting ... Hacksaw Jim Duggan beat One Man Gang by disqualification when Skandor Akbar interfered.
—Alfie Sumrall

THE MECCA (Milwaukee): The Midnight Rockers & Despina Montegas beat Doug Somers, Buddy Rose, & Sherri Martel ... Larry Zbyszko won by disqualification over Nick Bockwinkel ... Scott Hall defeated Col. DeBeers in a \$10,000 stepladder match ... Leon White beat Boris Zukhov ... Curt Hennig and Super Ninja battled to a draw.
—Steve Stapleton

SPORTS ARENA (Nashville, TN): Steve Keirn & Tracy Smothers wrestled The Rock 'n' Roll RPMs to a double-disqualification ... Jeff Jarrett defeated Jonathan Boyd in a New Zealand death box match ... Paul Diamond & Pat Tanaka defeated The Great Kabuki & Tojo Yamamoto in an elimination tag team match ... Big Bubba pinned Tracy Smothers ... Jeff Jarrett & Billy Travis battled Aiko Sato & Tarzan Goto to a double-disqualification ... Boy Tony beat John Paw ... Goliath defeated Speedy Tall Tree.
—Mark Taylor

VETERANS MEMORIAL AUDITORIUM (Des Moines, IA): Todd Champion won a \$25,000 bunkhouse stampede ... Nikita Koloff & Dusty Rhodes defeated Ric Flair & Tully Blanchard in a Russian chain/Texas bullrope match ... Sam Houston and Arn Anderson wrestled to a time-limit draw ... Dave Peterson & Todd Champion beat The M.O.D. Squad by disqualification ... Bulldog Bob Brown defeated Mitch Snow.
—John Kaska

RECAP: The NWA has been holding bunkhouse stampedes throughout the country with a variety of winners. One unusual name that pops up is Todd Champion, who won in Des Moines ... Nikita Koloff & Dusty Rhodes, also known as The Superpowers, continue to be an almost unbeatable tag team ... Kamala has been disqualified in most of his matches against WWF World champion Hulk Hogan ... What has happened to The Midnight Express? The former NWA World tag team champions are rarely seen in the win column ... Many thanks to our readers in Canada this month, and also in the NWA and WWF areas. But mail has dropped off considerably from the AWA and UWF. C'mon, readers—get those results in and have your area represented! □

WRESTLING ENQUIRER

BIG CHANGES IN STORE FOR FLORIDA AREA

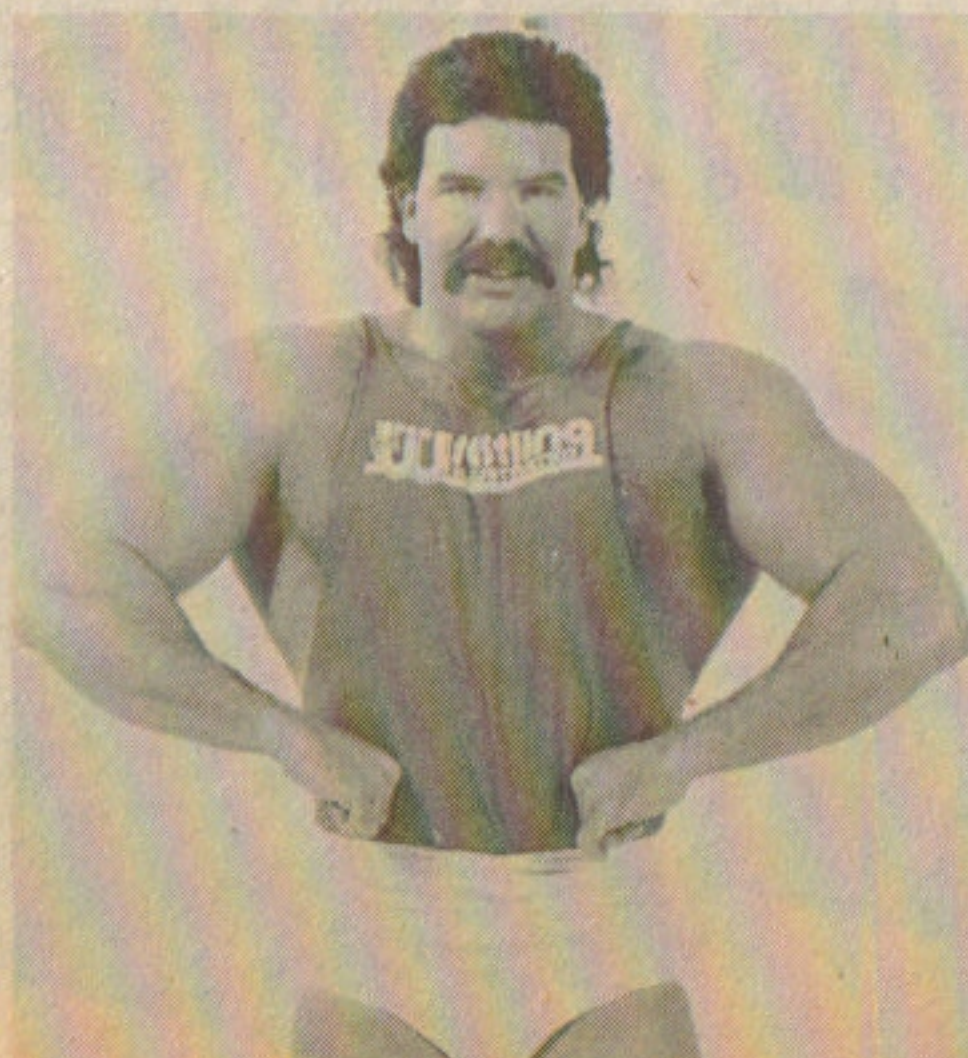
Hall Arrives From AWA; Is Southern Champ Luger Out?

By CRAIG PETERS

TAMPA, FL—Scott Hall, who recently left the American Wrestling Association, has signed to wrestle in the Florida area starting February 1. And Southern champion Lex Luger might be on his way out.

"I felt that it was time to change the direction of my career, and Florida wrestling offers me this opportunity," said Hall, a 6'8", 290-pound native of Minneapolis. "I was hoping that things would go better for me in the AWA, but I realized that I was wasting too much time with [Col.] DeBeers. Now I have a chance to start over again."

Luger, on the other hand, has reportedly inquired with J.J. Dillon about the possibility of joining The Four Horsemen. If he does move to



Scott Hall (left) has left the AWA for Florida, where he hopes to become a major star and fill the gap that may be left by Lex Luger (right), who has reportedly spoken with J.J. Dillon about the possibility of joining The Four

the World Championship area and becomes involved with the Horsemen, Luger would find himself on the opposite side of the ring from former tag team partner Barry Windham, who recently left the Florida area.

"We're aware of Lex Luger," said Dillon of the 1986 Rookie of the Year. "Everybody in wrestling is. Whether or not we have any interest in him, I'd rather not comment at this time."

If Luger does leave Florida, Hall would be more than able to fill the void. Many experts feel that Hall has untapped superstar potential and simply needs a situation where he could be the top man in an area. Luger, on the other hand, appears to have run out of competition in Florida and might serve his career better in a larger area.

Four Horsemen. If he does move to
**Fantastics Headed
 To World Class?**



Now that they have lost the UWF tag team belts, The Fantastics may be going to the World Class area.

By **STU SAKS**

TULSA, OK—Tommy Rogers and Bobby Fulton, The Fantastics, have left the Universal Wrestling Federation and are taking some time off to train. The former UWF tag team champions made the announcement at a recent press conference.

"We felt that with Hacksaw [Jim Duggan] and Terry [Taylor] holding the tag belts, the belts are in very good hands," said Rogers. "And instead of wasting our time wrestling non-contenders, we felt it would be a good idea to keep in shape and try to improve ourselves with intensive training."

Rogers and Fulton also said that they might be ready to move to the World Class area. "We are currently in negotiations with World Class officials, but so far there has been no agreement," said Fulton. "So far, Tommy and I have not made a decision on which road we want to follow, but we will make a decision shortly."

The Fantastics have held the UWF tag team belts on two occasions and lost the title for the final time to Jack Victory and John Tatum on October 16.

Johnny V Introduces Demolition

By **BILL APTER**

EAST RUTHERFORD, NJ—Johnny V has unveiled his new tag team, another imitation of The Road Warriors, known as Demolition.

Individually, their names are Smash and Ax, and they wear leather outfits similar to those worn by the Warriors. But the similarity ends right there because Smash and Ax do not possess the incredible physiques of The Road Warriors. However, Johnny V insists that they will be a lethal tag team.

"Demolition will tear The British Bulldogs to shreds," said Johnny V. "This is the tag team that will rule the WWF and wrestling into the 1990s."

One WWF insider, however, does not agree with this assessment of the new kids on the block. "They're tough, but not that tough," said our source. "To compare them with The Road Warriors really isn't right because Animal and Hawk are real musclemen. Demolition will have to get by on rulebreaking and Johnny V's managerial tactics."



Demolition (Smash and Ax), another Road Warrior ripoff, is the new WWF tag team managed by Johnny V.

Demolition might have made its appearance at a good time. If Dynamite Kid is unable to return from his injury and the WWF tag team title is declared vacant, a tournament will most likely be held to fill the opening. If so, Demolition is likely to be in the running for the belts.

"I think that's Johnny V's idea," said our source. "Let's face it, after the Bulldogs there isn't really a dominant tag team in the WWF. It's anybody's ballgame."

WWF Champ Hogan Expecting First Child

By **PETER KING**

VENICE BEACH, CA—The sounds of little Hulkster feet will soon be heard in the Hogan household. Or will it be a Hulksterette? Regardless, WWF World champion Hulk Hogan and his wife, Linda, are expecting their first child very shortly.

"The way we figure it, Hulk should be able to wrestle for at least 15 more years," said a high-ranking WWF official. "Then, when Hulk retires, his son will be ready to step in and a new generation of Hulkamaniacs will be born. Unless, of course, Hulk and Linda have

a daughter. Then we might have an 'Elizabeth' for the fan favorites."

The expectant father was on tour and could not be reached for comment, but according to friends of the family, Hulk and Linda are extremely excited about their new addition.

"We all know how much the Hulkster loves the kiddies and now he's gonna have one of his own," said Capt. Lou Albano, who recently retired from the WWF. "This is a big time for Hulk, and a big time for Linda, and a big time for all humanity out there and all the children."

**AROUND
 THE GLOBE**

OSAKA, JAPAN

A sellout crowd of 13,180 fans filled Castle Hall here to witness a sensational card of New-Japan wrestling that saw the following major match results:

Tatsumi Fujinami pinned Kengo Kimura, Dick Murdoch and Masked Superstar beat Seiji Sakaguchi and Kantaro Hoshino, Akira Maeda and Osamu Kido beat Antonio Inoki and Yoshiaki Fujiwara, and Shiro Koshinaka defended his IWGP junior heavyweight title successfully by pinning Kazuo Yamazaki.

MONTREAL, QUEBEC

When Bruiser Brody lost a loser-leave-town match against Abdullah the Butcher in Dallas, he still had some unfinished business with the Sudanese madman. So their feud has headed north and spilled over the border as Brody and Abdullah are scheduled to continue their war here in the near future. Canadian promoters are scrambling to clear match dates on their schedule to accommodate the two grapplers, who have also taken their war to Puerto Rico in recent weeks.

TOKYO, JAPAN

The All-Japan Wrestling Association tag team tournament came to an end here and saw Jumbo Tsuruta and Genichiro Tenryu defeat Stan Hansen and Ted DiBiase in the final round at Budokan Hall. Tsuruta and Tenryu defeated Hansen and DiBiase by countout in a match lasting 8:13.